

## Djerejian named assistant secretary

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The office of the press secretary at the White House has announced the nomination of Edward P. Djerejian to be assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. He would succeed John Hubert Kelly. Since 1988, Mr. Djerejian has served as Ambassador to Syria. Prior to this, he served as deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, 1986-1988; as a special assistant to the president and deputy press secretary for foreign affairs, 1985-1986; and as the deputy chief of mission at the American embassy in Moscow as chief of external affairs in the political section and then as acting political counselor, 1979-1981. Mr. Djerejian was graduated from Georgetown University (1960). He was born March 4, 1939, in New York. He served in the U.S. Army, 1960-1962. He is married, has two children and resides in Bethesda, Maryland.

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## King returns home

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein returned to Amman from Europe Thursday after talks with several European leaders on the Middle East peace process and addressing the European Parliament on the situation in the region in general and the stand of Jordan in particular.

The main theme for the King's discussions and address was means to advance the peace process and ensure that a Middle East peace conference scheduled for October take place.

In his address to the European Parliament and comments to the press in Strasbourg following the speech, the King said that a breakthrough was at hand for peace in the Middle East but also warned of dire consequences if Arab hopes for peace were dashed.

The King reiterated the warning in arrival comments to the press in Amman.

"If things remain as they are now, I believe the area is drifting towards danger," he said. "There is a great deal of frustration and anger and I believe that if this chance is not taken, the loss of hope could bring with it rapid deterioration and extremism."

## Germany pledges further moves to assist Jordan

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Germany, one of the first countries to respond to Jordan's appeal for help, is considering setting up a European consultative committee to study aid to help the Kingdom cope with the influx of hundreds of thousands of refugees from Kuwait and other Gulf states.

This was one of the tangible results of a visit to Jordan last week by Carl Dieter Spranger, Germany's minister of economic cooperation, who also expressed his country's readiness to help Jordan by using its political clout on the international level to enable the Kingdom to continue its peace process.

His Majesty King Hussein, upon his return from Europe, held a meeting with Mr. Spranger at the airport Thursday.

In comments to the press at the airport shortly before departure after a three-day visit, the German minister called for the resumption of Arab financial assistance to Jordan.

"The whole world is obliged to help Jordan to remain stable and to enable it absorb the refugees," Mr. Spranger said.

"Arab countries should also help Jordan like they used to before," he added.

The German minister promised Jordanian officials to do his best by using his country's influence with the European Community and the World Bank to help Jordan positively contribute to the peace process.

"We are also considering setting up a consultation group to further study the situation in Jordan," Mr. Spranger said.

Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz said last week that Jordan will need at least \$4.5 billion over the next five years to help it absorb the refugees who have increased the Kingdom's population by 10 per cent.

According to Mr. Spranger, Jordan, the largest recipient of German aid in per capita terms, received over the past few years 1.6 billion Deutschmarks in aid. Germany was also one of the first European countries to respond to King Hussein's appeal last month to help the Kingdom handle the problem of refugees.

Mr. Spranger also said that Germany is willing to cooperate and assist the Kingdom in addressing its water problem that has worsened with the increase in Jordan's population.

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## Shamir ignores Bush's threat, insists on loan guarantees

Israel has 'friends' in U.S. Congress, Israeli

premier says in indirect challenge to White House

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir ignored President George Bush's threat to veto \$10 billion in loan guarantees for Israel Friday, setting the stage for a bruising U.S.-Israeli confrontation.

"At this moment the struggle is internal, between (U.S.) congressmen who support and who express understanding of the needs of Israel and the administration," Mr. Shamir told an airport news conference minutes after returning from France.

"We don't see any reason to change our position," he said. Mr. Shamir also called for Mr. Bush to explain why he wants to delay the loan guarantee package.

Mr. Bush Thursday announced he will use his veto power to postpone for four months the guarantees Israel is seeking. The president said the delay was necessary to help along efforts to

get an Arab-Israeli peace conference going.

Mr. Shamir told the airport news conference that "we do not understand at all the request for the delay, and we have not heard yet the reasons for this delay."

He repeated that Israel would not accept "linkage" between the loan guarantee package and the proposed Middle East peace conference.

"Israel does not accept any linkage, as it is called, between the issue of the loan guarantees, which are a great humanitarian issue, and between political issues, including the peace conference," he said.

Mr. Shamir said Israel remained committed to regional peace talks but that Mr. Bush's delay of the loan guarantees could embolden Arab states and "create unexpected difficulties in the negotiations."

The U.S. guarantees will allow

Israel to borrowing money at favourable rates on the international market. Israel needs the funds to build houses and create jobs for thousands of Soviet Jews moving to Israel since the Soviet Union relaxed exit policies in 1989.

More than 300,000 have arrived, and the government predicts there could be one million by 1995.

His comments at the airport were relatively low-key compared with remarks he reportedly made at a closed meeting with supporters of his Likud bloc in Paris.

Israel radio quoted him as saying "Israel will not agree to choosing between faithfulness to its essential interests and the money."

According to the Hebrew daily Maariv, three right-wing parties in Mr. Shamir's governing coalition have called on Mr. Shamir to cease talks about a peace confer-

ence until the United States approves the guarantees Israel wants for the immigrants.

Asked at a Franco-Israeli breakfast rally in Paris, whether he felt Mr. Bush was being intransigent or abandoning Israel, Mr. Shamir said: "It's not up to me to define each of the personalities active in today's politics. We have our friends... in the United States. I don't think I need say more."

Pressed for a direct response to Mr. Bush's veto threat, issued to counter the major pro-Israeli lobbying effort in Congress, Mr. Shamir said: "I cannot do that now."

He said Israel needed the help immediately to help absorb Soviet Jews who have immigrated in the last year.

"But it is not our money so we will have to negotiate to get it as

(Continued on page 5)

## Ensour hails outcome of Arab League meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour Friday affirmed the importance of the Arab League Council's decision in support of the U.S.-led Middle East peace initiative and stressed the need for coordination among Arab states bordering Israel — Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine.

Dr. Ensour, who returned home Friday after taking part in the Arab League Council meetings in Cairo described his contacts with Egyptian officials as good.

"There is nothing that stands in the way of overcoming differences between Jordan and Egypt," Dr. Ensour told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

In resolutions adopted Thursday, the Arab League Council welcomed the convening of a peace conference on the Middle East and called on the five Arab countries directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem to coordinate their positions ahead of the proposed conference.

In a final communique issued at the end of the council's 96th session, the foreign ministers attending the meeting stressed the need for a just and durable settlement of the Palestine problem based on international legitimacy. They also stressed that the Palestine question is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and that no just and comprehensive peace in the region can be established without a total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

The communique stressed the inalienable rights of the Palestine people, including the right to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on its national soil with Jerusalem as its capital. The council reaffirmed that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

On the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, the council decided to intensify its contacts with the parties concerned, including

(Continued on page 5)

## Baker: More work before setting peace parley date

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union and the United States failed Friday to fix a date for a Middle East peace conference, but U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said they still aimed to hold the meeting in October.

Mr. Baker insisted that despite the fact no date was set nor invitations issued, "there is no disagreement whatsoever," between Washington and Moscow.

"We have not concluded that there has to be a delay either. We are still anxious to see sufficient progress that the October timeframe that President (George) Bush and President (Mikhail) Gorbachev mentioned can be met," he told a joint news conference after a nearly two-hour meeting with new Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin.

Both men said the lack of action did not suggest disagreement. But the announcement added to the sense that momentum towards the conference, designed to launch direct negotiations between Arabs and Israelis, had seriously slowed.

Mr. Baker said, "We have not agreed on dates. We have agreed that we will continue to closely cooperate. The two countries to jointly sponsor if possible such a conference and we have discussed the issue of invitations."

"We still need to do a fair amount of work in the region with respect to the parties that might attend such a conference," Mr. Baker's efforts have been complicated by a brewing row with Israel over the Jewish state's request for \$10 billion in housing

loan guarantees to settle Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Before Friday's meeting, a senior U.S. official said Mr. Baker intended to discuss with Mr. Pankin the matter of invitations to the conference.

Mr. Baker has made six peace missions to the Middle East to secure commitments to attend a conference from Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Israel. Israel demands that Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) be barred from the talks.

He is due back in the region next week to tackle the main remaining obstacle — the issue of Palestinian representation.

Israel is pushing Washington to enact the \$10 billion in housing loan guarantees now but Mr. Bush has asked for a delay of four months so that the debate does not sidetrack the peace conference negotiations.

The Bush administration has often urged Israel to halt the settlement of immigrants in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, calling it an obstacle to peace.

Jewish leaders believe there are enough votes on their side in the U.S. congress to approve the loan guarantee request but Mr. Bush promised Thursday to use his veto power to block it.

Mr. Baker, who in recent days has sidestepped public discussion of the topic, said on Friday: "We're not trying to hide from the issue at all."

But he added: "In the interest of producing a viable peace process... I do not think it is productive to conduct these nego-

(Continued on page 5)

## Arab coordination meeting deferred until after PNC

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Syria's position that a coordinated Arab strategy in peace talks with Israel could be reached only after the issue of Palestinian representation has been settled and Israel announced its acceptance of a Middle East peace conference attended by representatives acceptable to the Palestinians has forced a postponement of a coordination meeting of the main Arab parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The proposed meeting of representatives of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is now scheduled to take place after a session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) later this month.

"Within the next two weeks, we may witness an Arab coordination meeting to agree on a united Arab position," Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, told journalists in Amman Thursday.

(Continued on page 5)

## Israelis kill Palestinian in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

— Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian who was throwing stones at an army patrol in the occupied West Bank Friday.

Ala Al Ratrut, 18, was shot in the heart in a clash between soldiers and Palestinians in the city Nabulus. He was taken to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

An army spokesman said the incident was being investigated.

The sources said Palestinians managed to take the body from the hospital despite soldiers who were guarding the area.

Palestinians have used mostly stones and petrol bombs in their 45-month old uprising against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In that time, Israeli soldiers and civilians have killed some 820 Palestinians.

## SLA fire kills UNIFIL soldier, guerrilla after abortive sea raid

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — A newly arrived U.N. soldier and a Palestinian were killed Friday when a group of seaborne guerrillas seized U.N. peacekeepers as hostages after fleeing to South Lebanon chased by an Israeli gunboat.

Yusef Goksel, spokesman for the United Nations Truce Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said the Palestinians seized 14 U.N. peacekeepers who then wound up in the middle of a battle between the guerrillas and a joint force of Israeli and allied Lebanese militiamen.

One of the soldiers was killed and five were wounded in the exchange, Mr. Goksel said.

He said the fatality was a Swedish sergeant and the wounded were two French and three Swedish soldiers. He refused to disclose their names until their families were notified.

The Swedes, including the

dead man, were newcomers. They only arrived in Lebanon Thursday as part of a routine rotation, Mr. Goksel told reporters.

Mr. Goksel said a Palestinian guerrilla was killed in the confrontation, another was wounded and held by the Israeli army and a third was held by the Israeli proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

Three other guerrillas, Mr. Goksel said, "turned their weapons to UNIFIL and surrendered without any resistance."

The guerrillas identified themselves as members of Fateh, the largest Palestinian guerrilla group.

A Fateh spokesman denied involvement. "Anyone can claim that he belongs to Fateh," said Zeid Wehbeh, Fateh's representative in South Lebanon.

In Tunis, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said its

members had nothing to do with the clash.

"Neither the PLO nor its factions have any relation with the group," of commandos involved in the incident, said a PLO spokesman.

"Our weapons have been handed over to the Lebanese government," he added, referring to Beirut's drive to regain control over all of Lebanon and end 15 years of civil war.

Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, told Reuters that the Palestinian leadership "strongly condemns the shooting against the U.N. forces."

He accused the Israeli army and SLA of deliberately machine-gunning from helicopters the Swedish and French peacekeepers.

"We offer our condolences to the families of the fallen," he said.

Mr. Musawi, a former schoolmaster, told Reuters by telephone from his home in east Lebanon: "It is possible that an American or a Briton will be freed in a week or more."

He said Western hostages could be released if there were no obstacles and "no lack of implementation from the Israeli side like the release of Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid which did not take place in line with the promises given by America."

He did not say to whom the U.S. promise was conveyed.

Israel's failure to release Sheikh Obeid, its most prominent Lebanese prisoner, "could be an obstacle that could delay the release of some hostages," Mr. Musawi said.

Musawi predicts hostage release, page 2.

## U.N. chief optimistic over Lebanon hostages

TEHRAN (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Friday he hopes to make more headway soon in his efforts to end the Middle East hostage crisis.

Pressed for comment on reports that the release of a Western hostage in Lebanon could be imminent, he said he continued to hope he could have "some positive results in the next days or weeks."

Asked whether this meant Western hostages might be freed in the next few days, he sidestepped the question by saying he does not make any difference between hostages because his mandate is humanitarian, not political.

"I am as well interested in the Lebanese, in the Israeli, and of course in the Iranian who are missing," he said. "But I cannot be too specific because I don't like to raise expectations. It is a very sad problem and I don't want to give the impression to families that their relatives will appear all of a sudden."

"But I am hopeful that I could do something in the next few days or weeks," he reiterated.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar talked briefly to reporters before boarding a special flight that took him on an official visit to Saudi Arabia. His mention of missing Iranians referred to four Iranian diplomats who disappeared in 1982 and are believed dead.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who saw Mr. Perez de Cuellar off at the airport, was also asked about prospects for further release in near future. He said he could not make any predictions because "this is not in our hands."

But he said he was grateful for the U.N. humanitarian efforts on this issue and that Iran hoped "that all hostages regardless of their nationality... could be released as soon as possible."

A leading Lebanese Muslim fundamentalist said Friday Israel's continued detention of a kidnapped cleric could delay the release of Western hostages in Lebanon.

Hussain Musawi, a member of the ruling council of Hizbollah (Party of God), said the United States had promised that Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, snatched from his South Lebanon home by Israeli agents in 1989, would be among 51 Lebanese freed on Wednesday. He was not.

U.N. mediators are orchestrating a series of reciprocal releases to free up to 10 Western hostages held by Lebanese fundamentalists and some 325 Arabs still held by Israel. Israel wants the swap to free or account for seven missing servicemen.

A security source said Shiite groups including Hizbollah were expected to return to the Israeli-occupied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia the bodies of three men killed in 1987 fighting.

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Musawi predicts hostage release, page 2.

## Abed Rabbo sets up breakaway DFLP

By Sama Attieh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A long-running feud in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) has led to a formal split within the group, with Yasser Abed Rabbo, leader of the breakaway faction, announcing that he was renouncing Marxism-Leninism which guided DFLP ideology since its founding by Nayef Hawatmeh in 1969.

Mr. Abed Rabbo, an executive member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), told reporters Thursday that a conference of DFLP activists held in Amman last week had adopted the decision to set up a new group independent of Mr. Hawatmeh but which would keep the same name.

Tunis-based Abed Rabbo said that his DFLP group was now independent of Mr. Hawatmeh's group, "especially after the Damascus meeting last July." There were final attempts to reconcile the two leaders in Damascus then, but the attempts had failed.

Mr. Abed Rabbo said that the four-day DFLP conference, which ended in Amman last Wednesday, had elected a new leadership for the political bureau — half of which are from the Israeli-occupied territories and the other half from the diaspora. They also adopted a new political programme.

Mr. Abed Rabbo's breakaway from Mr. Hawatmeh's Damascus-based organisation is expected to pose a problem during the next Palestine National Council (PNC) session in Algiers later this month. The DFLP has a quota of 12 seats in Palestinian parliament-in-exile.

Analysts say one of the groups would now have to change its name because

the PLO leadership would not accept two separate parties with the same name.

The differences between the two DFLP leaders has been boiling for years, according to sources close to the organisation. They began to show in 1987 when Mr. Abed Rabbo and others from the front moved to the PLO headquarters in Tunis. In August 1988, the two rivals clashed over strategy towards the Palestinian intifada which had started eight months earlier.

In March this year the conflict between Mr. Abed Rabbo and Mr. Hawatmeh was fought in the open when the latter sent an official request on behalf of the DFLP central committee to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat designating Tayseer Khaled as observer in the PLO Executive Committee regardless of Mr. Abed Rabbo's membership in the 14-man panel. The nomination was accepted by PNC Speaker Abdul Hamid Seyth. But Sheikh Seyth rejected the

request to replace Mr. Abed Rabbo in the Executive Committee without approval or denial from the PNC in an official session.

Mr. Abed Rabbo, however, said that many of his differences with Mr. Hawatmeh were due to ideological reasons. Sources close to the two said that the two personalities have clashed for many years.

Mr. Hawatmeh, who was a member of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), broke away in 1969 and formed the DFLP. One of the reasons for Mr. Hawatmeh's breakaway then was because he thought that the PFLP was more Arab nationalist than Marxist. Mr. Hawatmeh formed his party based on Marxist-Leninist ideology.

"We have



## Musawi predicts hostage release

BEIRUT (AP) — A pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim leader said in an interview published Friday that the issue of the Western hostages in Lebanon was on the way to a solution and predicted a hostage release in a week's time.

Hussein Musawi, a ranking member of the Shiite Muslim faction Hizbollah, said the hostage issue was "put on the proper course to a solution when the Americans started exerting pressure on Israel to free the (Arab) prisoners."

"One of the hostages in Lebanon will be released very soon. Maybe in less or more than a week," Mr. Musawi told the newspaper Al Liwa.

Hizbollah (Party of God) is the parent organisation for the factions holding most of the 11 Westerners missing in Lebanon.

Mr. Musawi's remark came a day after two hostage-holding groups sent messages offering cooperation in freeing the Westerners. The messages were accompanied by authenticating pictures of two hostages, American Terry Anderson and Briton Jack Mann.

The comment follows Israel's move, Wednesday, to free 51 Arab prisoners and returning the bodies of nine guerrillas to Lebanon in a move to facilitate the release of the Western hostages.

"The release of the Lebanese prisoners is the first step. Efforts to settle the hostage issue could now proceed," Mr. Musawi added.

The release coincided with a visit to Tehran, the Iranian capital, by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar who was asked in August by the hostage holding faction Islamic Jihad to mediate a swap of the Western hostages for Arabs held by Israel.

The Communist-run Voice of the People Radio quoted unnamed sources as saying Mr. Perez de Cuellar "has met in Tehran with a representative of the hostage holders."

"This representative asked Mr. Perez de Cuellar to work for a comprehensive swap and avoid piecemeal solutions preferred by Israel," the broadcast said.

The development coincided with the return to Israel early Friday of an exiled Palestinian and the body of an Israeli soldier who has been missing in Lebanon since 1983.

The Israeli Boeing 707, which landed at an air force base next to Ben-Gurion international airport, brought the remains of Samir Assad. Also aboard was Palestinian activist Ali Abu Hilal, expelled from his West Bank home in 1986 because of activities in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

The exchange of the body held

by the DFLP for allowing the exiled Palestinian to return also could be a step inducing Israel to free more of the estimated 300 prisoners held by it and a proxy militia in Lebanon.

Lebanese minister Abdullah Al Amin, who is close to Syria, said Thursday: "There is definitely a positive atmosphere about the issue and there are hush-hush, backstage efforts being exerted."

Expectations for a hostage release coincided with a message from Islamic Jihad in Beirut Thursday accompanied by a picture of Mr. Anderson, the American journalist who is the longest-held hostage.

While the Shiite faction's statement said Israel's release of 51 Arabs and return of nine bodies was "incomplete," it urged Mr. Perez de Cuellar to persist in trying to arrange a prisoner swap with Israel.

In Tehran, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said he believed Israel's freeing of prisoners could be the beginning of a solution to the hostage crisis.

But he said it was "not right to link too strongly the question of the missing Israelis with the release of the Westerners. There is not necessarily a link between the two things."

In its statement Thursday, Islamic Jihad said: "We are fully prepared to extend the required support for him (Mr. Perez de Cuellar) to reach the required comprehensive solution."

But it demanded more prisoner releases from Israel and freedom for some Lebanese jailed in Europe on hijacking and murder charges.

The 30-line Islamic Jihad statement was given to the Lebanese newspaper Al Nahar and a Western news agency in Beirut. The picture of Mr. Anderson was the same as the one released by the group Aug. 6, which was the first to show a clean-shaven Anderson in profile in more than six years of captivity.

Mr. Anderson, 43, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, was kidnapped March 16, 1983.

Islamic Jihad's statement came about 14 hours after another group, the Revolutionary Justice Organisation, said the return of the 51 prisoners and nine bodies raised "happy ending" hopes for the Western hostages.

The group also announced that 77-year-old Mann was "alive and in good physical shape" more than two years after he disappeared in Beirut.

Besides Mr. Mann and Mr. Anderson, the other missing Westerners are four Americans, two Britons, two Germans and an Italian.

## Outcry in Egypt over parliament drug scandal

CAIRO (R) — Official files implicating nine members of parliament in drug-trafficking have caused a public outcry and put Egypt's politicians on the defensive.

Parliament's Committee for Constitutional and Legal Affairs decided this week against expelling the nine — all from the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) — after studying Interior Ministry files.

But in a move that would allow prosecutors to press charges, it stripped parliamentary immunity from one deputy who was a hero of the 1973 war.

The affair has prompted widespread criticism of the NDP-dominated parliament. Political analysts said they believed the other eight members, dubbed "the druggies" by the local press,

had escaped on a technicality. A state-owned newspaper published a cartoon showing a mother weeping as an anti-narcotics officer took her son away. "You should be happy," a bystander assures her. "Your son has a bright future as a respected member of parliament."

Most of the allegations against the nine date back years and committee said it could only expel members for misdemeanours committed since they were elected.

"This is a mistake, they (the NDP) should investigate members before they nominating them," former Parliament Speaker Suif Abu Taleb told Reuters.

"Many other members are very unhappy with their behaviour. But these doubts are not a legal proof," added Mr. Abu Taleb.

## Palestinian home after nearly six years of exile

ABU DIS, occupied West Bank (AP) — Early morning came alive with tears and cries of joy in this village on the edge of Jerusalem as Ali Abu Hilal came home.

A senior figure in the Palestinian liberation movement, Mr. Abu Hilal had been expelled by the Israelis nearly six years ago. His return Friday came in the most improbable circumstances — in an Israeli jet that also brought the remains of a dead Israeli soldier.

His movement, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), surrendered the remains of Sergeant Samir Assad, missing in Lebanon since 1983, on condition Mr. Abu Hilal was allowed home.

As a military chaplain recited a prayer over Sgt. Assad's coffin, a Red Cross van carried 36-year-old Abu Hilal to Abu Dis for a pre-dawn reunion.

The army, anxious lest the re-joining turn into an anti-Israeli demonstration, sent in troops who made the villagers remove the banners welcoming Mr. Abu Hilal as a "hero of Palestine."

There was no violence. Mr. Abu Hilal was brought from Vienna and got off the plane out of sight of reporters. The army said he was made to sign a pledge "not to break the law," but he denied signing any such document.

"The return to the homeland for any deportee is a beginning of a new life," Mr. Abu Hilal told a news conference Friday morning.

He termed Israeli expulsion procedures "illegal and in defiance of basic human rights."

Mr. Abu Hilal predicted that the agreement exchanging Sgt. Assad's body for his return "is a stage of many stages" leading to more releases.

"The negotiations are still going on between Israelis, Palestinians and Lebanese and Western sides under the supervision of the United Nations and the Red Cross," Mr. Abu Hilal said.

He added: "The first stage ... will be followed by other stages that will include the release of Western hostages, Israeli soldiers in exchange for Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners, and also the return of some Palestinian deportees."

His voice broke when he spoke of the death of Sgt. Assad saying "I was hoping that he would be returned alive."

The DFLP says Sgt. Assad was killed in a 1985 Israeli air raid on a DFLP base on an island off the coast of Lebanon. The Israeli army disputes the claim, but has never released its own version of Sgt. Assad's fate.

On his arrival home, Mr. Abu Hilal's 65-year-old father, Abdullah, fell about his shoulders and silently wept. His mother, Sabriya, 63, cried: "My son, you came back," his two sisters sang a song, and his niece Aida threw a fire cracker.

In a black suit and gray tie, Mr. Abu Hilal looked like a bridegroom as he embraced his wife, Siham, from whom he had not seen for five years. His face gleamed in happiness.

"I feel like a newborn child ... but I also feel I'm a strong man returning to my homeland," he said.

Israel has expelled more than 1,300 Arabs from the occupied territories it occupied in the 1967 war. The reason given is usually anti-Israeli activity, and the few who have been allowed back were let in on humanitarian grounds.

## U.N. team leaves Iraq after helicopter row

BAGHDAD (R) — A U.N. inspection team investigating Iraq's ballistic weapons systems left Baghdad on Friday after failing to carry out its mission because of a dispute over the use of helicopters.

The 17-member group arrived in the Iraqi capital a week ago planning to visit sites in western Iraq from where Scud missiles were fired at Israel and Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war.

But Iraqi authorities denied them permission to use two helicopters stationed in neighbouring Turkey that are on loan to the United Nations.

Team leader Tom Brock, an American, told reporters before leaving for Bahrain — field headquarters for the inspection teams — that the western zone must be inspected at some point.

"I have not been able to accomplish the task that I had originally been assigned," he added. "The western zone will involve going out and inspecting the fixed launch structures and then to supervise or monitor their destruction."

Asked what effect the failure of his mission would have, Mr. Brock, 48, replied: "This doesn't make that significant an impact other than delay a timetable on which we would complete this basic inspection process."

A U.N. resolution adopted on Aug. 15 orders Baghdad to allow inspectors "to conduct both fixed-wing and helicopter flights throughout Iraq for all relevant purposes including inspection, surveillance, aerial surveys, transportation and logistics, without any interference of any kind."

Iraq says such flights pose a threat to its national security and it does not trust statements that they would be used solely to carry out the tasks of the inspection teams.

Iraq offered air transport of its own to the team and Mr. Brock said the mission could have gone on without U.N. helicopters.

Asked why it had not then done so, he replied: "Because the United Nations' position was that the inspection of the western zone would be utilising the U.N. aircraft."

Mr. Brock's group, the fourth ballistic missiles inspection team to visit Iraq, went to only two sites near Baghdad and carried out no filed trips since Monday.

Asked if he felt the Iraqis were hiding something, he said: "That's only speculation and I don't really feel that. I think the issue basically is whether or not they want to accept U.N. helicopters."

One future mission later in the year, planned before this week's dispute arose, is intended to make a closer inspection of two "superguns" being built by Iraq and capable of firing shells hundreds of kilometres.

After a preliminary inspection last month, military experts said the project was far more advanced than previously believed.

Under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire, Iraq must declare and destroy all its weapons of mass destruction.

There have been 11 other U.N. missions to Iraq to examine its nuclear, biological and chemical weapons capability.

At the beginning of July, a special high-level mission was sent to Baghdad to take up with Iraqi officials the issue of two previous nuclear inspection teams being denied access to nuclear sites and the concealment of nuclear material.

On Aug. 15, the U.N. Security Council condemned Baghdad for concealing information and materials from U.N. weapons inspectors.

Shortly beforehand, Iraq revealed eight kilograms of irradiated uranium it had been hiding for four months by moving it around the country in a truck.

Johan Santesson, the head of the last chemical weapons inspection team to visit Iraq, told Reuters in Bahrain on Wednesday that the number of times Iraq had obstructed the work of the teams had become a serious problem.

"If you look at isolated cases it's not serious, but if you take the total sum it is — the number of incidents now is such that it will be given serious political consideration," Mr. Santesson added.

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## Ex-guerrilla president vows to keep out of Cyprus politics

NICOSIA (R) — Ex-guerrilla Nicos Sampson, the frontman in a disastrous, Greek-orchestrated coup that led to the division of Cyprus, said Friday he had been made a scapegoat.

In his first foreign interview since being freed from jail, the stocky Greek-Cypriot journalist, who was president for eight days in 1974, vowed to stay out of politics for the rest of his life.

Mr. Sampson, 53, a legend on Cyprus for his battle against British rule and Turkish Cypriot rivals, said he did not want his freedom to be an obstacle in efforts to unite the island.

"I have no bitterness towards Turkish Cypriots. Why should my freedom be an issue. I am not interested in getting back into politics," he said.

Mr. Sampson, serving a 20-year prison sentence for his part in the 1974 coup, was surprisingly freed last week on a legal technicality.

The attorney-general of Cyprus is trying to put him back behind bars. The Turkish-Cypriot minority has denounced him as a danger to inter-communal peace.

Mr. Sampson shrugged off the accusation that he was "a Turk killer" and said his part in the coup against President Makarios had been misrepresented.

Following the coup, carried out by the Greek colonels then ruling in Athens, Mr. Sampson was made president. The Turkish army invaded saying it needed to protect Turkish Cypriots. The island has been divided by barbed wire and minefields ever since.

Mr. Sampson said he had no prior knowledge of the coup. "I became president because I thought Makarios was dead ... I took power to stop the civil war," he said, banging his hand on the table to emphasise the point.

Claiming there had been a big cover-up, Mr. Sampson said he had kept 40,000 telegrams sent by Greek Cypriots who backed his short-lived administration.

Wearing an open-necked shirt, Mr. Sampson's dark brown eyes moistened when he spoke of his days as an anti-British EOKA guerrilla fighter in the years before independence.

Twice sentenced to death by the British for possession of arms, Mr. Sampson was pardoned when Cyprus became independent in 1960.

"The EOKA days were the most glorious in the history of my country," he said.

"I was tortured by the British. I felt sorry for the people who were killed, but the British forced us to fight. The responsibility is Britain's," said Mr. Sampson when asked if he personally had killed any British soldiers.

Branded a "Turk killer" by the British popular press of the 1960s, Mr. Sampson said his activities against Turkish Cypriots were those of a soldier serving his country.

"The Turkish Cypriots were in rebellion (against the Greek-Cypriot dominated government)," said Mr. Sampson, referring to intercommunal fighting. "My conscience is clean."

He said he did not fear for his safety "because the people love me."

"Last night there were 40 people here. All of them were (Greek-Cypriot) refugees from Morphou, Kyrenia and Famagusta (in Turkish-held north Cyprus). They gave me the moral strength to live."

The population puzzle is complicated by disputes over the criteria used to identify voters and the fact that it is difficult to determine with certainty where a nomad was born.

The figures would add up to over 335,000 people or nearly five times the number announced by Mr. Manz.

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## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### No Cyprus peace conference in September

NICOSIA (R) — The U.N. special envoy to Cyprus said Friday there would be no peace conference in September to reunite the divided island. "I think it is quite true that we are not going to have a meeting in the short run on Cyprus," Oscar Camilleri said. Asked by reporters if there would be a peace meeting in September, he replied: "Certainly not. In the current situation it would not be wise to call a meeting because the result of the meeting in these circumstances would not be the best." U.S. President George Bush, who has stated a personal interest in a speedy solution, proposed a conference this month. Mr. Camilleri made the remarks before meeting President George Vassiliou at the end of week of separate contacts with Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders. Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops invaded its northern third after a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece. Reunification talks between Mr. Vassiliou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş, who heads the breakaway Turkish republic of northern Cyprus, broke down last year. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, making a last push to solve the problem before he retires at the end of the year, last week urged all sides to redouble their peace efforts. Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis and his Turkish counterpart, Mesut Yilmaz, failed in Paris this week to reach agreement of the convening of a United Nations peace conference on Cyprus.

### Sudan to help Iraq secure food needs

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir has said his country will help Iraq secure its food and medicine needs, Khartoum Radio said Friday. Gen. Bashir said the pledge during a meeting with visiting Iraqi Finance Minister Majeed Abed Jassar. Mr. Jassar arrived in Khartoum Tuesday for talks with Sudanese officials on economic cooperation. Baghdad has complained that United Nations sanctions, imposed following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, are causing hardship. Sudan has said it will work for the lifting of the sanctions.

### Kuwait denies team going to Iraq

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait denied Friday it was sending a delegation to Baghdad to help retrieve treasures taken during Iraq's occupation of the emirate. "It is not true. No delegation has been formed," said Information Minister Badr Jassim Al Yacoub. Officials said U.N.-sponsored talks were underway on the return of the treasures taken from Kuwait national museum. The artefacts are one of the most important collections of Islamic heritage in the world. The Iraqi museum authorities said Thursday a 13-member Kuwaiti team was expected in the Iraqi capital early Saturday to join 13 Iraqi officials and a U.N. team. Baghdad is obliged under U.N. Security Council resolutions to return all property taken from Kuwait following Iraq's invasion of Aug. 2, 1990. Iraq has already returned 40 tonnes of gold to the central bank and is returning books.

### No more cars for families of Iraqi martyrs

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, hit by U.N. trade embargo, has abandoned a tradition of offering new cars to families of soldiers killed in action. Instead President Saddam Hussein is offering cash, the army newspaper Al Qadisiyah said Friday. Ten million dinars (\$31 million at the official exchange rate) had been set aside for payments during 1991. The money would go to the families of those killed during the Gulf war in January and February and subsequent Kurdish and Shiite rebellions. The newspaper gave no figure for the amount each family would receive but officials estimated it would be between 5,000 and 6,000 dinars (less than \$1,000 at the widely-used black market rate). Iraq, which lost hundreds of thousands of men during the 1980-88 war with Iran, is suffering rampant inflation following the Gulf war. Families of those killed during the war with Iran received cars. Iraq makes no vehicles of its own and has not been able to import cars since a U.N. trade embargo was slapped on the country after its invasion of Kuwait more than a year ago.

### Hostage's wife leaves for Beirut

LONDON (AP) — Sumaiya Mann left for her home in Beirut Friday, hopeful that her husband will soon be free after more than two years as a hostage in Lebanon. "I feel very excited. I really think something is going to happen this time," Mrs. Mann told reporters at Heathrow airport. A day earlier, the Revolutionary Justice Organisation had released a photograph of her 77-year-old husband, Jack. It was the first confirmation that the former royal air force pilot was still alive. Mrs. Mann had been deeply disappointed when her husband was not released last month. Instead, it was British journalist John McCarthy who was freed on Aug. 8. "Of course I was extremely happy for John but rather desolate for Jackie," she said. "So now things are really moving and I'm feeling quite cheerful." She said it was unlikely she and her husband would stay in Beirut, once he is released. "I think we'll probably go to Cyprus, for a time anyway," she said. "I am keeping the flat in Beirut just in case. I don't know until I see him how he's going to be or how he's going to feel."

### Political prisoner expelled by Morocco

PARIS (R) — Morocco, in a surprise gesture, freed and expelled one of Africa's longest-serving political prisoners Friday after holding him for 17 years in jail. Abraham Serfaty, jailed for life in 1977 for plotting to overthrow King Hassan, was put on board a flight from Casablanca on the orders of the Moroccan Interior Ministry. The ministry said Mr. Serfaty, 65, had been expelled because he "could make absolutely no claim to Moroccan nationality," and was in fact Brazilian. On arrival at Paris' Orly airport, Mr. Serfaty immediately denounced Rabat's explanation for his release. "I must protest against the force mounted by the Moroccan government," he told reporters after being greeted by his French wife, Moroccan children and a French foreign ministry official. He said his Moroccan nationality was indisputable and had been established by the first government set up in Rabat after the country achieved independence. The leader of the outlawed Marxist-Leninist movement Idriss Amam (Forward), dressed in the jeans and dirty blue sweatshirt he wore in prison, looked tired and walked with a crutch.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Le Chevalier de Labyrinthe  
18:30 Thalassa  
19:00 News in French  
19:30 Carnet de Notes  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Totally Hidden VI  
21:00 Encounter  
21:30 Classical Music  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Feature film: "Thruway Wives"

### PRAYER TIMES

06:55 Fajr  
07:14 (Sunrise) Dhuha  
12:31 Dhuhur  
16:03 Asr  
18:49 Maghrib  
20:07 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

### Terrace Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 683326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611293

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot and winds will be northerly with light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 18 / 31

Aqaba 25 / 37

Jericho 19 / 35

Jordan Valley 22 / 37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings:

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Kayed Habbash 793522  
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala 690408  
Dr. Abdul Wabab Awad 846070  
Dr. Walid Smadi 683266  
Pines pharmacy 661912  
Perdons pharmacy 778336  
Al Asma pharmacy 637055  
Nairobah pharmacy 626772  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shimazi pharmacy 637660

### EMERGENCIES

Dr. Ayman Abdul Hajja (—)  
Al Shamsa pharmacy (773825)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Hakeem Hiyasat (—)  
Khalifah pharmacy 9



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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975  
 جوردن تايمز صحيفة سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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## Right veto for a change

OF COURSE Israel is stunned by the warning of U.S. President George Bush that he would veto any congressional decision to award it the controversial \$10 billion loan guarantee. The Jewish state has become accustomed to being Washington's spoiled child by getting all it wants from the U.S., the day it wants it, simply by pulling some strings in the seats of power and mobilising its agents and lobbyists in that country in support of its demands. But when the U.S. president decides to put an end to Israel's gory logic and crude exploitation of Zionist pressure groups in a manner clearly detrimental to the overall American interests, the Israeli ruling government goes berserk and starts "crying wolf."

What is so disturbing about this latest Israeli attempt to manipulate Washington's foreign policy and make it serve its own national objectives is that it is based on the obviously false premise that the American people owe it to Israel to keep funding it with money and credit under one guise or another and that it is Israel's legitimate right to demand and obtain financial, economic, military and political aid all the time. This arrogant attitude is what is finally driving home in the U.S. the message that Israel must learn some discipline before Israeli audacity wrecks for ever all and every existing chance for peace in the Middle East.

The second objectionable feature about the Israeli insistence to go over the U.S. president's head and seek authorisation for the loan guarantee in question from the U.S. Congress is that this political behaviour constitutes a major and blunt challenge to President Bush personally and contradicts his policies and their objectives in this region.

The Israeli prime minister and his followers inside and outside his country are obviously counting on their many friends on Capitol Hill and in the ability of the Jewish lobbyists to sway public opinion in the U.S. in their favour, as they had done so many times in the past. Obviously President Bush has also done his homework this time and is solidly banking on his people to win the standoff on the loan guarantee issue. It is therefore more than comforting that this latest and brewing American-Israeli conflict of interests has come to a head at last. Any formula or compromise short of vindicating the Bush administration in its showdown with Israel in general and Shamir's government in particular would simply play into the hands of Israeli apologists. It is thus reassuring that the U.S. president has flatly ruled out any compromise solution entailing an agreement to accord the requested credit guarantee at the end of the four months. It would simply defeat the purpose to commit the U.S. beforehand on the loan guarantee and makes a mockery of Mr. Bush's attempt to rein in Israel and its current leadership. The fact that the Israeli government has already incorporated part of the \$10 billion credit into its new budget even before it is cleared by Washington proves beyond a shadow of doubt that Tel Aviv takes Washington for granted and now is the time to put an end to this irresponsible behaviour.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's address to the European Parliament was a reminder to the world community to shoulder its responsibility towards alleviating the suffering and relieving the plight of the expatriates forced out of Kuwait, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The paper said that the King's address was a brave message to the world and those believing in peace, justice and democracy and adhering to principled stands. In his address, the King put all the facts before the European parliamentarians, outlining Jordan's honest and courageous stand, its objective dealing with questions related to the Middle East problems and its continuous quest for peace based on justice, the paper said. This was a brave call to the world to come to the aid of Jordan, which is burdened with new responsibilities, and the Palestinian people, who are still the victims of injustice due to the lack of implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 that can ensure Palestinian people's rights in their own homeland, the paper continued. The King's brave speech, said the paper, was a call to the world community to give momentum to the peace process so that harmony and security can replace desperation and violence in the Middle East. The King, added the paper, has taken a brave stand in calling for the establishment of peace and it remains for the Europeans to respond favourably and contribute to the achievement of that objective.

GENERAL statements by the Arab League Secretary General Ismael Abdul Majid about re-establishing solidarity among Arab countries, without taking steps towards achieving that goal, came under fire from a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. We have heard statements by the Arab League secretary general stressing the need for solidarity, but the statements failed to point to the real problems and to the Arab states responsible for the present divisions in the Arab World, said Bader Abdul Haq. Countries that had orchestrated the U.S.-led alliance's aggression against Iraq should take steps to erase the hatred that is now deep-rooted among the Arabs, and the Arab League should take practical steps towards ending divisions so that the way can be open to solidarity, the writer continued. He said it is feared that Mr. Abdul Majid's statements are not more than mere words phrased for him by the United States and its allies which seek to dominate the Arab region through the Arab League. It is feared that Mr. Abdul Majid is seeking a kind of solidarity that would only serve Washington's interests and not those that existed in the Arab World before the Gulf crisis, the writer added. We have heard a great deal about the Arab League and its statements, said Abdul Haq, but the Arab masses have so far failed to see practical steps that can really help re-establish solidarity among Arab countries.

# 'Peace should be between peoples not states' New world order requires new thinking

Following is the text of an address by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan entitled "The Search for Peace" to the annual conference of the Department of Public Information for NGOs — "Peace, Justice and Development — ingredients for an emerging new world order" — in New York. It was delivered via satellite.

The concept of an emerging world order brings to my mind the Grand Old Duke of York, who discovered that if you are halfway between two places, you are nowhere. My intention is not to start my address to you today on a pessimistic or critical note. At the risk of apparent immodesty, I cannot help but refer to the statement of Woodrow Wilson quoted in my book "Search for Peace," which was published in 1984. In his address to the United States Senate on Jan. 22, 1917, he said "There must be, not a balance of power, but a community of power, not organised rivalries but an organised peace."

That book, as its title suggests, was a modest attempt to tell how we can bring about, to the Middle East, the peace that the whole world needs. Of course the political will for peace was not mustered, and the successive missed opportunities and tragedies in the Middle East during the eighties culminated in the recent Gulf crisis.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Some analysts consider that the breakdown of strategic confrontation between the superpowers is moving the world towards a period of recurring crises with a supranational rather than a purely regional character. The forty-year-old cold war was not only wasteful in armaments and confrontation. The greater loss is perhaps in the form of those contradictions of the cold war that have been internalised in all aspects of international relations. There are those who consider that the U.N. may be its own worst enemy in respect of a Security Council based on the legacy of the cold war and having little to offer the new world.

The greatest challenge in the search for peace in an emerging world order is not merely for the U.N. to be reborn. There is an

urgent need for changing our way of thinking about basic concepts such as peace, justice including human rights, security and development.

One eminent scholar has stated, "to read the concept of development from the standpoint of the concept of security is to understand that hunger is a form of genocide. This form of development may not be discussed in the U.N. Security Council, but it is no less a threat to human beings than the missiles standing silently in their silos."

Such a dilemma is clearly illustrated by the latest report from the U.N. secretary general about Iraqi oil exports and the catastrophic food and health crisis faced by the Iraqi people. This report concludes that the proceeds allocated by the U.N. from Iraqi oil exports will not be sufficient to meet minimum requirements of the Iraqi people according to the criteria of the World Health Organisation and UNICEF. Iraq needs, according to U.N. missions, \$1.3 billion during the next six months in food imports. According to the plan of the Security Council, Iraq will only get \$670 million that can be used for this purpose. In other words, only half its minimum needs. Let us hope that the International Community will find a way in time to avert impending famine.

Dear friends,

In rethinking the basic concepts relating to the emerging world order the questions are not so much technical but cultural. Security and development should not be the preserve of what have been termed as the cult of impressive and high-sounding language. The relevance of such concepts as security and development to their social and human context has to be reconsidered in line with the changed world reali-

ties, an intellectual bridgehead is desperately needed to resolve the dichotomy between the international political and economic frameworks. This applies equally between North and South as well as in the North and South.

Honoured delegates,

In our search for peace it is vitally important to bear in mind that it is impossible to ration justice. The notion that truth cannot be forked-out in careful rations might generate a fear among decision makers that the process may go too far and create an avalanche. This in its turn may produce a wish to go nowhere at all or even to retreat.

In approaching the Middle East peace process, we are aware of the need to strike a delicate balance between respect for the normative contents of relevant international law norms and Security Council resolutions on the one hand, and the need for flexibility and ingenuity to ensure that negotiations are meaningful, on the other.

In determining the most appropriate route for the search for peace, it is essential to consider the probable humanitarian, social and political character of the emerging world order. If peace is to be meaningful and durable, then it has to be among people and not only between governments and states.

In Jordan we have been engaged during the eighties in such an approach of exploring the humanitarian route map. I participated in the work of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues which recognised "that progress in removing the causes of human suffering is a step-by-step proposition. It is not just the quality of life but life itself, that is threatened. Modern man is at peace neither with his self nor with his environment." We are faced with the dual challenge of man against man and man against nature.

The independent commission, a lobby for the powerless, dealt with a wide range of issues. The

major themes were "Humanitarian norms, particularly, these pertaining to modern wars and conflicts; disasters: natural and man made such as famine; vulnerable groups such as refugees and indigenous people and the degradation of the environment: deforestation and desertification. The final report of the commission offered a new humanitarian outlook and applicable alternatives. It urged that action ought to be taken prior to disasters rather than wait and react in the aftermath. It stressed that economic growth, national security and other grandiose schemes that are often applauded and sought after, are of no value if they do not bring about a greater welfare for the concerned people. They are of value if and when they are of benefit to the well-being of the public at large.

In short, our efforts were directed towards a multilateral approach to world interdependence through evolving a humanitarian order. Simultaneously with this effort, a three-stream interreligious dialogue has been conducted with the Vatican, in the United Kingdom and the Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Geneva. The dialogue has emphasised and built upon common aspects and shared values and concerns for the three monotheistic faiths.

However at this stage, we feel the urgency to reinforce our search for peace with a state-to-state effort and have thus called for a Helsinki-type approach of a CSCME (a Conference for Security and Cooperation in the Middle East).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A broadly defined security concept means tackling the root causes of conflict. The three dimensions of security (military, political, economic) must be explicitly recognised. They interact dynamically with people, resources — environment and cultural identity in every part of our globe, an effective search for peace requires a careful examina-

tion of all the relevant route maps. We have in Jordan evolved our thinking in this regard along the form of a regional matrix. This can help identify priorities in a process for security and cooperation in the region. A breakthrough in resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict can pave the way for a conference for security and cooperation in the Middle East (CSCME). We look at this as a process rather than a one time event.

There are some who consider that the problems of the Middle East are too daunting to allow for such a process of security and cooperation as the CSCME. But it ought to be stressed that if there is a will there is a way. The challenges facing political union in Europe are quite formidable. But this has not deterred the community from pursuing that aim including the controversial objective of a European defence policy. We all saw how swiftly the recent Gulf war transformed the southern flank of NATO into its southern front.

In essence, many regions of the world face the challenge of reconciling security to the often conflicting perceptions and aspirations of different peoples. Within that context, it has been rightly observed that the primary focus of security should be people and not states, nor the elite, the affluent or the more powerful.

In talking about people, I firmly believe in the trilateral approach based on democracy/ security/prosperity for our region.

The politics and economics of despair have to be replaced by the political economy of peace and progress. Extremism and radicalism should be tackled by democratisation and freedom of expression. Imaginative approaches to arms control can promote security while at the same time diverting hundreds of billions of dollars towards socio-economic development.

A conference on security and cooperation in the Middle East (CSCME) can draw on the moral weight of the Helsinki process in

Europe. I have on more than one occasion emphasised that the "Helsinki 34" are integrally inter-linked to the Middle East through the triangle of energy, armaments and debt. The "Helsinki 34" are the main consumers of Middle East oil, its main suppliers of arms and its main creditors. It is no exaggeration to say that oil revenues in the Middle East have literally fuelled the arms race, which in its turn has been largely behind the external debt crisis faced by many countries in the region. Any effective consideration of arms control must therefore by necessity focus on the issues of energy and indebtedness. For example, the recent proposal from Brussels for a European energy charter can provide useful guidelines for tackling constructively the issue of energy in the Middle East. This proposed charter outlines three objectives for the European energy sector including Eastern Europe: Firstly, security of supply, secondly safeguarding the environment and thirdly efficiency of production. If these principles were applied in respect of Middle East energy, then a great contribution to peace and stability will be made.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

"Your three-day gathering, according to the conference information," "is an attempt to address how recent geo-political events present new opportunities for enhancing the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, and the promotion of economic and social development." I believe that the role of the NGOs is a basic ingredient required for the successful exploitation of these opportunities. NGO action can provide that much needed bridgehead to overcome the dichotomies I referred to earlier on. It is with this sense of appreciation and expectation that I wish you all the success in your endeavours.

Thank you.

## The week in print

### U.S., Europe and the Arabs: How will the scales tip?

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's major address to the European Parliament about the situation in the Middle East, the prospects of the peace process, Jordanian-Egyptian relations in the wake of the publication of the Jordanian White Paper on the Gulf crisis and domestic affairs were discussed at length by the local media in the past week.

In his address the King presented all facts before the Europeans, urging them to come to the help of the people of Middle East and establish peace, said Sawt Al Shaab in an editorial. We need the European Community to actively participate in re-establishing stability and security in our region and we need its help to end the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of international legitimacy, said the paper.

The King's address was a message to the whole world community through the European Parliament, urging the peace loving nations to implement the U.N. Security Council resolutions that can bring about peace and security to all countries in the region, said Al Ra'i daily. What the Middle East region needs now is an end to all conflicts and a peace based on justice, guaranteeing the Palestinians their national rights in their homeland, the paper added.

In light of the coming tour of the region by the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the U.S. secretary's mission this time could be harder than ever before. While the U.S. is showing its determination to bring about peace, the Israeli government is showing more obstinacy regarding the settlement issue, the paper said.

The U.S. administration should admit now that it is Israel, and not the Palestinians, that is obstructing the peace conference which was accepted by all the Arab states, the paper said.

Mr. Baker's mission in the Arab countries would not be difficult because the Arabs hold no winning cards and they cannot impose their will on the Israelis during the coming negotiations, said Salameh Ekour in Sawt Al Shaab daily.

The writer said that the Arabs are still in disarray on the eve of the proposed conference while Israeli leaders continue to show

intransigence and determination to execute the settlement programme in Arab lands. Furthermore, the Palestinians have not reached a decision yet as to the participation in the coming conference, which could prompt the U.S. to involve its Arab allies alone in the parley.

The writer urged the Palestinian leadership to take a speedy decision with regard to their participation in the coming negotiations because, he said, the coming chance could be the last.

A columnist in Al Dustour expressed surprise at the Arab countries' welcome of the U.S. administration's delay for 120 days only, in offering guarantees to Israel to obtain loans to build settlements.

Taher Al Adwan said that the Israelis are going ahead with their plans anyway and are certain of eventual approval by the U.S. administration of the required guarantees for a \$10 billion loan to be obtained from world banks.

Israel is in a race against time to build thousands of homes for the Soviet Jewish and other immigrants while the Arab city of Jerusalem is being Judaised as the Arabs continue to count on Israel's ally, the U.S., to bring them justice and restore the Palestinians' rights, the writer said.

A columnist in Al Dustour said that the apparent dispute between Israel and the U.S. administration over the loan guarantees is just a show.

Munes Al Razzaz said that the Israelis are quite certain that the guarantees will be secured thanks to their formidable lobby in the U.S. Congress and therefore, there is no need for the Arabs to build castles in the air and imagine that the two allies are in conflict.

He said the delay in giving the guarantees does not mean that the U.S. plans to ignore them.

A guest columnist in Sawt Al Shaab is pessimistic about the prospects of peace.

Abdul Hafiz Abu Qaoud said that all indications point to the fact that the U.S. administration is going ahead with plans to impose on the Arabs a political settlement as directed by the world Zionism.

The writer said that the crushing of the Iraqi military power, the death of the world

communism and the disarray in the ranks of the Arab countries have all paved the way for the U.S.-Israeli alliance to impose the settlement.

Several columnists discussed the ongoing hostile campaign in the Egyptian media against Jordan for publishing the White Paper that throws light on the facts surrounding the Gulf crisis.

Fahd Al Faneh said in Al Ra'i that the White Paper is now sought by all Arab people because it presents facts that are not liked by the Egyptian regime.

The White Paper presents facts that preceded the Gulf war thus exposing the Egyptian regime and other Arabs who chose to side with the U.S.-Western alliance, said the writer.

He said Egypt, after President Nasser, has played two shameful roles: first by stabbing the Palestinians in the back through their Camp David accords with Israel and second when Cairo was instrumental in launching the U.S.-led aggression against Iraq.

By publishing the White Paper Jordan has placed itself, and its nationals living in Cairo, on the Egyptian blacklist, said Taher Al Adwan in Al Dustour.

The Egyptians are taking vengeance on the Jordanian students and Palestinian citizens in retaliation for the publication of the White Paper which obviously exposes the shameful role played by Egypt during the Gulf crisis, said the writer.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticised the Arab League which has recently held its 96th meeting in Cairo.

Mahmoud Rimawi said that topics of real importance to the Arab World, like the immigration of Jews to Palestine, the peace process initiated by the U.S., arrangements in the Gulf, where the Americans are establishing their presence, and the eviction of thousands of Jordanians and Palestinians from Kuwait, were not among the subjects on the agenda.

The writer questioned the wisdom behind holding such meetings if they can not discuss topics of vital importance to the Arab World.

Columnist Munes Al Razzaz said in Al Dustour that one should not be surprised by Israel's actions because the Arabs

are offering it the chance to do whatever it likes.

Referring to the lack of coordination among members of the Arab League in general and those of countries surrounding Israel in particular, the writer said that there can be no justification for the Arab regimes if they fail to convene a meeting prior to the projected peace conference which would decide their fate for generations to come.

Turning to domestic issues, Ahmad Dhuban, who writes for Sawt Al Shaab, said that the water problem in Jordan has now reached the red line.

He said that if the amounts of water now reaching the capital, which is housing most of the returning expatriates, remain at the same level, the residents will be in for deep trouble.

The influx of the expatriates, the scarce water resources available and the growing needs for industry and agriculture are complicating matters for the government, the writer said. He said that there will be no alternative to a strategic solution to this chronic problem.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily criticised those who use fire arms to express joy at weddings and said that despite the strict measures to stop this bad habit that causes tragedies, many people still do not respond to the needs of security in the country.

Saleh Qallab said that only in Jordan this bad habit is adopted by the local communities, along with the bad habit of blowing the horns of their cars and beeping along the streets causing a great deal of nuisance to others.

The writer suggested that strict measures be taken to stop this bad habit which is harmful to the community in general.

A columnist in Al Ra'i focused attention on the plight of private school teachers who receive little salary and are exposed to improper treatment by the school administration.

Fakhri Kassar said that not only do these teachers receive low salaries barely enough to pay for transport, but they are also denied the salary for the three month summer vacation. He urged the government to end this inhuman treatment of the teachers and ensure their rights.

## Saudi Arabia responding cautiously to Iranian overtures

By Mariam Isa  
 Reuters

MANAMA — Saudi Arabia is responding cautiously to Iranian overtures as the two Muslim rivals work on a post-Gulf relationship to end years of mutual distrust.

Diplomats in the region say revolutionary Iran and the conservative Arab monarchy have both given top priority to their budding friendship as a result of Tehran's neutral stand during the Gulf war.

Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has accepted an invitation to visit Saudi Arabia, just five months after the two states ended a three-year breach in relations.

No date has been set but Mr. Rafsanjani will be the first Iranian head of state to visit Riyadh since the Islamic Revolution brought Shiite fundamentalists to power in 1979.

Diplomats said the visit was a further sign of goodwill between Saudi Arabia and Iran, the spiritual leaders respectively of Islam's two main branches — Sunni and Shiite.

But they said it would take time before Saudi Arabia, which supported Iraq during its eight-year war with Iran, could overcome its traditional fears of Shiite fundamentalism.

"It is a probing relationship," one senior Arab diplomat in the kingdom said.

"The Gulf crisis has created a new theatre where new things can be tested but any wrong move could create problems in the future. The Saudis are being very cautious," he told Reuters.

"The relationship is clearly improved but there is still a lot of mutual suspicion and distrust — it will take time before this changes. Saudi Arabia is still leery of Iranian intentions," another Riyadh-based diplomat said.

The main obstacle was religious differences between Sunnis and Shiites dating back centuries, the diplomats said.

Saudi Arabia is the birthplace of Islam and home to Islam's two holy cities, Mecca and Medina. The two countries cut ties soon

after 400 demonstrating pilgrims — mainly Iranians — died in clashes with Saudi security forces during the 1987 pilgrimage to Mecca.

Iran then boycotted the annual pilgrimage to Islam's holiest shrines in protest at a Saudi ban on political rallies and at a system of quotas limiting the number of Iranian pilgrims.

The boycott ended this year after Riyadh allowed 115,000 Iranians to attend and allowed them to hold a "meeting" in a secluded area. Everything went smoothly, officials said.

The likelihood that foreign military powers will continue to play a role in Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf Arab states was another sticking point between the two Muslim powers, the diplomats said.

Tehran condemned Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait while denouncing the deployment of U.S.-led troops which forced Iraq's army out of the small but oil-rich emirate.

Tehran has said it wants to be part of any GCC security arrangements — a step privately viewed as premature by many officials in Saudi Arabia and in the other member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The Saudi-dominated alliance, to help obviate Iranian objections at being excluded, shelved plans for a new regional defence pact in favour of bilateral arrangements with foreign powers, the diplomats said.

Tehran has condemned a planned 10-year defence pact between Kuwait and the United States. Any similar agreement between Washington and Riyadh would be very low-key, the diplomats said.

Oil policy was another area where Tehran and Riyadh, both members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), do not see eye to eye.

Saudi Arabia favours raising the group's production ceiling during the fourth quarter of 1991 to meet growing demand while Iran is against any increase in the ceiling until crude prices have advanced to OPEC's target of \$21 per barrel.

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## Ensur hails outcome of Cairo talks

(Continued from page 1)

the Soviet Union, to put an end to the immigration to the occupied Arab territories. The council also adopted another decision rejecting and condemning the Israeli occupation of Syria's Golan Heights.

The council called for studying the situation of the Iraqi people and for making every possible effort to provide the basic needs of the Iraqi people and to end their suffering.

Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid said the council also reviewed other issues of common interests to the Arab Nation, including the Lebanese problem. The council, he said, voiced support for Lebanon's efforts, peace and reconciliation.

On the issue of Kuwaiti captives in Iraq, the council requested the league's secretariat to

assist in finding an inter-Arab solution to this problem.

On the Somali question, the council recommended that efforts be pursued to restore security and stability to that country. It further called for providing food and medicine to Somalia to help it through its current crisis.

At a press conference after the meeting, Dr. Abdul Meguid said the council stressed the importance of forging closer cooperation with Africa, with a view to developing Arab-African cooperation into a model for cooperation between countries of the South.

On proposed amendments to the Arab League Charter, Dr. Abdul Meguid said that Libya and Qatar had joined a seven-member committee entrusted with discussing the amendments to the charter and to establish a higher Arab court of justice.

## Abed Rabbo sets up own group

(Continued from page 1)

intellectual pluralism as our organizational basis," Mr. Abed Rabbo said, adding that Mr. Hawatmeh's clinging to the Marxist thinking was a major difference between the two.

He explained that his breakaway group considers itself "a nationalist, democratic and progressive for all the sons and daughters of Palestine, regardless of their social and religious trends. And this does not conflict with our secular trends."

Mr. Abed Rabbo, however, held out an olive branch to his rival and called for a face-to-face dialogue to resolve the pending differences in a "democratic and civilized" manner.

"We are completely willing to resolve the differences based on democratic and civilized means by sitting together face to face to end existing

differences," Mr. Abed Rabbo said. He noted that other Palestinian parties and prominent personalities, including Mr. Arafat and Dr. Hawatmeh, had tried in vain to mediate the rift.

"Each of us has his role and it is not our business at all to continue our differences with our brother Nayer's group or any other national Palestinian parties. We believe that this is a waste of our national efforts and capabilities," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

The Amman DFLP conference, where a parallel conference took place in the occupied territories, resulted in political resolutions concerning the Palestine question that conform with the official PLO position. The conference resolutions, Mr. Abed Rabbo said, will be submitted to the PNC session in Algiers on Sept. 23.

## Arab coordination talks deferred

(Continued from page 1)

Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to independent statehood.

"We believe that we all agree that there is a need to secure international guarantees" before the peace conference starts, Mr. Abed Rabbo noted.

Egypt, which had initial reservations over the proposal, agreed to attend the Arab meeting in talks with senior PLO officials earlier this month and reaffirmed its position to the Jordanian foreign minister, Abdullah Ensour, who met with President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Musa in Cairo last week.

But, "Syria's position is that, while it is willing to participate in the crucial meeting, it will be premature to engage in inter-Arab exercises before Israel announces its acceptance or non-acceptance of the peace conference," an informed source told the Jordan Times.

Syrian leaders, in talks with other Arab and Palestinian leaders, are pointing out that "a declaration of the Palestinian position on representation and Israeli acceptance of the Palestinian representation are crucial to convening the peace conference," the source said.

Apparently, the Syrian leadership, which remains at odds with the PLO leadership under Chairman Yasser Arafat, does not want to engage in reconciliation contacts with the PLO prior to firmly establishing that the peace conference is going to take place.

The declaration of the Palestinian position is expected at the PNC meeting scheduled to be

convened in Algiers on Sept. 23, and Israeli acceptance to attend the peace conference is seen to hinge on whether the PLO agrees to the Jewish state's demand that only non-PLO Palestinians and no Arab East Jerusalem Palestinians attend the parity as negotiators.

Amman and Cairo are the suggested venues for the Arab coordination talks, other sources told the Jordan Times.

"Egypt had been expressing reservations over the issue, but last week's contacts have cleared the way for the meeting," said one source, noting that President Mubarak and Chairman Arafat met in Libya two weeks ago and senior PLO official Farouk Qadumi held talks with Foreign Minister Musa in Cairo last week.

None of the sources, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, could definitely affirm the level of representation at the planned gathering in Cairo, but most expected foreign ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon as well as Mr. Qadumi, head of the PLO Political Department, would attend.

Dr. Ensour, in remarks after meeting Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Musa in Cairo Wednesday on the fringes of an Arab League Council session, said that the president "reaffirmed the importance of conducting speedy negotiations among Arab experts and ministers so that a collective Arab stand can be adopted" before the October peace conference.

The Arab League Council also called for a meeting of the Arab parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Qadumi was quoted as saying after his talks with Mr. Musa: "We can say that coordination has been achieved."

# Scientists still learning from Mt. Pinatubo

By Jon Miller

CLARK AIR BASE, THE PHILIPPINES — Mt. Pinatubo has simmered down, but the mood inside the volcano-monitoring station is electric: 18km from the mountain's crater, seismometers jiggle, computers purr, telephones ring and videotapes flicker. Tom Casadevall, in shorts, a baseball cap and T-shirt, dashes from person to person, asking questions, clapping his hands, speaking words of encouragement.

"The reason for the excitement? Scientific ground is being broken. And when volcanologists break ground, that's good news for the millions of people worldwide who live around the corner from some of nature's most terrifying neighbors."

"In terms of impact on a human population, this volcano is clearly, by far, the major event of modern times," says Casadevall, a 44-year-old gas emissions expert with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Volcano Hazards programme. "It's also the largest eruption we've ever observed with instruments. It has supported a lot of what we've learned at other volcanoes, and it has filled in some important gaps."

Never before has so much data been gathered on such a large volcano. Thanks in part to powerful new computer technology, the mountain, shrouded day and night in mist and ash, has been a living, bubbling, steaming laboratory for scientists wanting to learn more about how volcanoes work — and how to help save thousands of lives in the process. Mt. Pinatubo, which erupted repeatedly from April to July, was the fourth largest volcanic event of the century, spewing some four to six billion cubic metres of ash and stone onto the heavily populated region around its base. The physical and economic damage has been incalculable. Ashfall and mudflows have completely transformed the landscape, wiping

out farms and businesses, destroying roads and bridges, crippling a huge American air base, and displacing thousands of tribal people who had lived for centuries on the mountain's forested slopes.

But the relatively small cost in human represents a tremendous victory for the Philippines geologists and civil defense personnel, who led evacuation efforts, and for American volcanologists who arrived in April with sophisticated equipment and extensive international experience. The death toll from the eruption is still under 500; compare that to the 25,000 who died in mudflows caused by the smaller eruption of Nevada del Ruiz in the Colombian Andes in 1985.

"Mt. Pinatubo was a dramatic success story," says Mr. Casadevall, an affable and energetic man who has worked on volcanoes in half a dozen countries. "The number of buildings that collapsed alone should have caused a greater number of fatalities than we actually had. People tend to cluster indoors during an ashfall. The same goes with the mudflows. But people were informed, and knew when to get out."

Mr. Casadevall, who came at the invitation of the Philippines government, says the key to the success at Pinatubo was twofold: first, scientists understand better than ever what is happening kilometres beneath the surface of the earth, and second, they have learned to communicate that understanding to the population at large. The second point is in many ways the most important. When Nevada del Ruiz erupted, volcanologists had a fairly good idea of what was in store. They had drawn up maps showing where mudflows were likely to go, and they had outlined the other hazards. Their warnings were sent to the local government, and even published in the newspaper. But the people in the area weren't convinced. Almost

all the fatalities occurred in mudflows that had been anticipated by the geologists.

Mt. Pinatubo has been a shot in the arm for the tight-knit international volcanology community. Geologists fear nothing more than a repeat of the Nevada del Ruiz fiasco in a major population center. Mt. Vesuvius in Italy, Mt. Merapi in Indonesia, Mt. Fuji in Japan and Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines are all in extremely densely populated areas. All Mr. Casadevall says, are "time bombs." All, he hopes, will be less deadly because of the lessons learned in the past few months at Mt. Pinatubo.

Most of the fatalities from Mt. Pinatubo occurred during the ashfall caused by the single biggest eruption to mid-June. A number of people died after the eruption when volcanic materials and gas came cascading down the

mountainside, and more were killed in mudflows brought on by heavy rains. The death toll continues to mount as evacuees succumb to disease in overcrowded relocation centers. Ironically, more Americans disease in overcrowded relocation centers. Ironically, more Americans disease in overcrowded relocation centers. Ironically, more Americans disease in overcrowded relocation centers.

The proximity of the bases was a lucky break for the more than one million Filipinos in the area. Washington gave the USGS unprecedented support from helicopters in radar facilities to

on-base housing. The American geologists brought expensive seismometers and other equipment. And, working closely with their Filipino counterparts, they got to test a set of a powerful new computer programmes that turned out to be ideally suited to developing countries like the Philippines.

"This is really the first eruption where we've relied so heavily on the personal computer," explains Mr. Casadevall. "If one of those computers had broken down, we could have found a replacement within an hour. Personal computers don't need air conditioning, they are rugged, they can be bought on the local market. And the software can literally be carried in a scientist's briefcase."

The USGS, which has access to huge main-frame computers at its monitoring sites in the United States, found that the "Willie Lee

System," designed for the personal computer by a USGS specialist, was extremely useful for processing the information transmitted by seismometers placed at strategic sites around the volcano. A newer USGS system, designed to be used on a \$200 notebook computer, is expected to be even more powerful.

Mr. Casadevall, who says he is doing more coordination than science at the Pinatubo station, is particularly interested in aviation safety during volcanic eruptions. He was an organizer and resource person at an emergency conference in July in Seattle that was attended by representatives of airlines, governments and affected industries from two dozen countries. He says the Philippines government should be commended for its rapid and level-headed response to the ashfall that blanketed Manila on June 15. It was the first time a major international airport anywhere has had to deal with significant quantities of ash. Just a week after a typhoon deposited a thick layer of gray powder on the capital, runways were clear and planes were in the air — an impressive feat, Mr. Casadevall says.

He notes that every volcano is different, and there is no way to predict exactly what will happen — or when — once a sleeping mountain wakes. But every well-observed eruption erases a little of the mystery. The next several months will be spent sifting through data, refining ways of classifying eruptions, of measuring mudflows, of processing seismic evidence. Perhaps more important, volcanologists from around the world, with a little more experience under their belts, will get together and swap stories about what went right and what went wrong. "We're trying to get a clear sense of just what happened," Mr. Casadevall says, early in what will be another 15-hour workday. "It's still an incredibly dynamic situation" — World News Link.



With the help of new computer programmes, volcano expert Tom Casadevall probes Mt. Pinatubo's eruption at a study centre 18 kilometres from the mountain.

## Shamir ignores Bush's threat

(Continued from page 1)

5000 as possible," he said. "I hope the United States will find an appropriate way to give us this aid."

Mr. Shamir reaffirmed that Israel was willing to attend Middle East peace talks whether or not it received the loan guarantees.

He said he expected the proposed conference to last only one or two days and to consist of a series of speeches, after which Israel would negotiate separately with each of its Arab neighbours without any external party participating.

An unsmiling Shamir at the airport again refused to directly comment on Mr. Bush's statement, but made clear he expects Jewish lobbyists to ignore the president's opposition and step up pressure on Congress for immediate approval of the aid.

"I have not to express any opinion about it," Mr. Shamir said. "The Jewish leaders and all our friends in the U.S. are deciding these problems on their own."

Mr. Bush has opposed Israel's crash building programme in the occupied Arab territories. He has warned that further U.S. aid to Israel now could undermine his efforts to convene the peace conference tentatively planned for

October. Mr. Shamir praised the lobbying of pro-Israeli groups, whose last major battle with a U.S. president was their unsuccessful 1981 attempt to block the sale of AWACS surveillance aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

But this confrontation — with Israel openly calling for its supporters in Congress to ignore the wishes of a popular president — could develop into the most bitter U.S.-Israeli struggle since Washington opposed Israel's 1956 Suez invasion.

Police Minister Roni Milo, a close ally of Mr. Shamir, said earlier pro-Israeli forces in Washington should be strengthened.

"We have to stand on this position, be very aggressive, explain our position well and if we do that I think we'll succeed," Mr. Milo told Israel Radio.

The U.S.-Israeli confrontation is certain to dominate talks when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker comes next week seeking Israeli and Palestinian agreement to the proposed peace talks.

The funds raised through the loan guarantees, already counted in Israel's 1992 budget, would go for unspecified government spending.

Palestinians, angered by U.S. aid to Israel, fear the loans would finance Mr. Shamir's drive to

tighten Israel's grip on the occupied territories by moving more Jews into the area.

Although Israel says it does not use U.S. aid in the occupied territories, it frees Israel to spend other funds there.

Mr. Shamir has vowed to continue settling Jews in the occupied territories and opposition Member of Parliament Dedi Zucker said this week the number would double by the end of 1992.

The right-wing Jerusalem Post, a solid supporter of Mr. Shamir, accused Mr. Bush of "extortion" by linking loan guarantees to Middle East peace.

However, opposition Member of Parliament Yossi Sarid called Israel's lobbying assault on Congress a "vulgar mistake," that could backfire into anti-Israeli feeling among Americans.

"Even if Israel wins, it will lose this war," Mr. Sarid told army radio.

## No date set for peace parley

(Continued from page 1)

tations and discussions publicly."

Mr. Baker refused to say whether Arab states had told Washington they would not attend a peace conference if the loan guarantee request was approved.

"What we're saying is we do not want to link the issue. We think it would operate against the

prospect for peace because these are indeed very divisive issues ... they are issues that we have said we think need to be resolved at the negotiating table and not before," Mr. Baker said.

"So we say people who want to push these issues now and create a public and divisive debate about them are themselves creating linkage and that is detrimental to peace," he added.

"That is, there must be linkage between the realisation of immigration and the political issues that stand between us and the Arab states," he said. "This linkage is the grave thing."

## Germany pledges further moves

(Continued from page 1)

"We look with importance" upon this problem and we will highlight the problems facing Jordan in the water conference scheduled to take place (in Istanbul) in November," Mr. Spranger said.

In a meeting with Mr. Spranger Wednesday, Tourism Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti called on Germany to resume Lufthansa flights to Jordan now that the Gulf crisis has ended.

Mr. Kabariti's request was made during a visit to Umm Qais by the German minister. While welcoming him, Mr. Kabariti praised Jordanian-German relations and called for further improving ties.

He pointed out that Germany's contributions to Jordan did not only cover development projects but also infrastructure projects and services. He noted that Germany's contributions to restoring antiquities and historic sites in Jordan showed Germany's interest in Jordan's present, past and future.

He voiced hope that such interest will continue in the service of both countries.

## SLA fire kills UNIFIL soldier

(Continued from page 1)

the countries and families of the victims," he said.

The shooting took place in the coastal village of Naqura at the headquarters of UNIFIL.

It was about 500 metres from the place where Israel handed the bodies of nine Lebanese guerrillas to the Red Cross Wednesday.

Israel and Lebanese security sources said the attackers were chased ashore by Israeli gunboats.

"The SLA started firing and that's when all the casualties took place," said Mr. Goksel.

The Israeli army's account said the guerrillas started the shooting.

"After the exchange of fire it became clear the terrorists had

taken U.N. soldiers ... hostage. As a result of the exchange of fire, a man from the U.N. was apparently killed and four others wounded," it said.

Asked about the Israeli version Mr. Goksel told Reuters: "There is no doubt in our minds that the SLA had more than ample information that there were prisoners held there."

"We told them several times U.N. soldiers had been taken hostage ... we were telling the SLA and passing messages to the (Israeli army) we were there and please don't fire."

He said UNIFIL told the Israeli army that soldiers were held hostage and urged no firing in the area at 7:45 a.m. The first shots were fired at 8:33 a.m.

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## Defensive changes give Spurs early-season boost

ONDON (R) — English first division Tottenham, seeking stability on and off the field after the turmoil caused by their massive debts, are receiving an early-season lift from the influence of new manager Peter Shreeves.

Shreeves, who took over when Terry Venables switched from coach to managing director as part of a takeover to save the ailing London club, has made bold defensive changes that have paid off with encouraging league form.

Spurs go into Saturday's first division match at home to city rivals Queens' Park Rangers with three wins and only one defeat in their opening five matches — a sequence owing much to greater resilience at the back.

Club captain Gary Mabbutt believes the strengthening of his side's previously shaky defence could be the key to a genuine title challenge this season.

The improvement has followed Shreeves' decision to replace Norwegian goalkeeper Erik

Thorstvedt with 19-year-old Ian Walker and convert striker Paul Stewart to a midfielder.

Mabbutt said: "People have criticised our defence in the past and said it was a weakness that stopped us becoming champions, but I think we look a different proposition now."

Shreeves said: "The ability of Paul Stewart as a bolder player in midfield has benefited our defence, and Walker is in tip-top form. He has given me a nice problem because I have to choose between a boy who has kept three clean sheets and an experienced international."

Leeds, one of only two clubs still unbeaten in the first division, defend their record away to Chelsea with England pair Tony Dorigo and David Baty fit after minor injuries suffered in the 1-0 defeat by Germany Wednesday.

Left-back Dorigo, who pays his first visit to Chelsea since his £1.3 million (\$2.2 million) transfer from the London club last May,

has recovered from a bruised foot, while midfielder Baty has responded to treatment for a "dead leg."

Striker Rod Wallace is out with a groin injury which needs an operation, so midfielder Steve Hodge looks set to play his first full game since his move from Nottingham Forest in July.

Leaders Manchester United, the other side still unbeaten, await fitness reports on Soviet international Andrei Kanchelskis and England defender Paul Parker before naming the side to face Southampton away.

Kanchelskis limped off last Saturday against Norwich with a recurrence of an achilles injury that had kept him out of the previous four games.

Manager Alex Ferguson said: "Kanchelskis is 90 per cent fit. Paul Parker got a slight knock on the leg in the England game Wednesday but should be okay. I will have a look at both players again tomorrow."

## Athletics meet organisers try to contain rising fees of sportsmen

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — While athletes push their physical limits ever further, some track stars are discovering the financial limits of meet organisers.

"Some have just become too greedy," said Wilfried Meert, the organiser of Friday's Ivo Van Damme Memorial, after dismissing the demands of the Santa Monica Track Club, which includes injured Carl Lewis and Leroy Burrell.

In a gradual shift from amiable handshake deals with athletes eager to make an extra buck 15 years ago, people like Meert now face a shield of calculating agents trying to make the most out of an athlete's short career.

For the 15th edition of the memorial, both sides came up empty-handed.

Meert said Santa Monica manager Joe Douglas asked for more than \$100,000 for seven of his athletes, travel and hotel costs excluded.

"It did not even include Lewis, so we had to say: Sorry, it would be a \$115,000 joke," Meert said in an interview.

After Lewis called off, "not a soul was asking for the other Santa Monica members," he said.

After the snub, Douglas told officials at a meeting in Italy's Rieti "that he would never come back to Brussels and that he would make sure Lewis did likewise," said Meert.

Standing their ground does not come easily for track meet organisers who compete with one



Carl Lewis

another for the best starting list to the short summer season. This has sent prices through the roof.

In 1988, organisers from Brussels, Zurich and Cologne joined forces to resist the demands of hurdler Edwin Moses and sprinter Florence Griffith-Joyner, who asked \$30,000 and \$25,000 respectively.

Meert thought he had a deal going again with Cologne this year not to cede to Douglas' demands, but market principles got in the way.

"Cologne also said the demands were excessive for a group without Lewis," he said. But lacking other crowd pullers, one of the main sponsors said "we are not paying so much money if none of the stars shows up."

According to Meert, "So they came back on their

decision."

The first memorial, 15 years ago, was staged for \$115,000, or the asking price of the appearance of a depleted Santa Monica Club.

Friday's memorial — one of the year's best-attended meets costs more than \$1 million which pales compared to the most prestigious event in Europe, Zurich's Weltklasse, which has a budget of some \$2.35 million.

But there is no dearth of talent following the World Championships in Tokyo.

Mike Powell, who set a new record in the long jump, is the man of the moment. Almost overnight his price soared from four digits to more than \$25,000.

"As far as my appearance fee is concerned, it's going up," Powell said.

## U.S. trying to build Olympic basketball team that will never be forgotten

NEW YORK (AP) — They like Mike. And Larry. And Magic. USA basketball is trying to build a U.S. Olympic team that will never be forgotten.

The selection committee is looking for a dream team — led by Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan and Larry Bird — that couldn't be matched after the novelty of NBA players in the Olympics wears off and the prospect of a hot summer in a cramped Athens' Village discourage prospective players.

"It would be so exciting having a team with those three," Bird's lawyer, Bob Woolf, said. "It would never be forgotten."

Johnson, Charles Barkley and Karl Malone haven't wavered in their desire to play since 1989 when the door opened for Olympic participation by NBA players,

and it's impossible to imagine that all-NBA players would not be invited.

Nice start. Those three and the college guys who went to the Pan Am Games might be enough to bring home the gold from Barcelona.

But from that beginning, a once-in-a-lifetime clobber that also includes Jordan, Bird, Patrick Ewing, John Stockton, Scottie Pippen, Chris Mullin and David Robinson reportedly is set.

C.M. Newton, chairman of the 13-man selection committee, said for now the committee is working from a pool of top players, determining the degree of each player's interest.

"Our desire is no different than ever before," Newton said, "and that's to put together the best possible team that can be put

together. But the uniqueness of this being the first time for NBA players is there."

Jordan certainly would be the biggest catch for the committee, and Johnson and Barkley have pressured their Chicago Bulls rivals to join the club. Despite reports that Jordan has agreed to play in Spain, his management group insists a decision hasn't been made.

"Michael's status hasn't changed — he's undecided," Proserv spokesman Ted Ewanciw said. "Because of time constraints, the fact he played in the Olympics in 1984 and his desire to take a spot from a deserving player who never was in the Olympics."

"I tell him that we can do something that could be truly great," Johnson said of his conversations with Jordan.

## IAAF chief makes no secret of ambition

TOKYO (R) — Primo Nebiolo, the controversial Italian who heads world athletics, makes no secret of his vanishing ambition.

Since he was elected president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) in 1981, the 68-year-old Turin lawyer has doggedly pursued a dream in which athletics takes over from soccer as the world's premier sport.

So it was with considerable satisfaction that Nebiolo announced the third World Championships had attracted 171 countries.

"This is the biggest number of countries that have taken part, not only in the athletics championships, but also in any sports event in the world," he told a news conference.

It all seems an age since Nebiolo took over the federation to find just three full-time staff in the London headquarters.

Now there are 50 in London and a further five in Rome as the sport has grown and the number of championships proliferated.

Athletics, which did not stage its own world championships until 1983, will now have one every two years after a recent IAAF congress decision.

The regular competitions now include such events as world race walking cups and the women's world 15-km road championship.

Not only has the sport mushroomed but so have the fortunes amassed by a few fortunate individuals since it went professional in 1983.

Carl Lewis, the leading sprinter and long jumper in the Nebiolo era, is a millionaire, and many lesser names will owe their work in a regular job when they retire.

Third World countries are also delighted at the amount of money the IAAF is devoting to development programmes in nations where the sport sometimes struggles to survive.

Nebiolo can point with justifiable pride to his achievements in sports administration since he held the post of president of the University Sports Club of Turin 38 years ago.

Besides his position as IAAF president, he is also president of the Association of Summer International Olympic Federations and has helped organise a succession of major sporting events.

But critics believe his successes have been at the expense of the credibility of a sport, badly tarnished in recent years by a series of drug scandals.

They point to the 1987 Rome World Championships when officials tried to fix the long jump by deliberately mis-measuring a jump of Giovanni Evangelisti which gave the Italian the bronze medal.

They point to the 1987 Rome World Championships when officials tried to fix the long jump by deliberately mis-measuring a jump of Giovanni Evangelisti which gave the Italian the bronze medal.

## Piggott aiming for 30th classic victory

DONCASTER, England (R) — Remarkable 55-year-old, Lester Piggott, partners 5-1 third favourite Micheletti in Saturday's St. Leger, final classic of the English flat racing season, and the form book says he can win.

Piggott enjoyed 29 classics successes before retiring in 1985. Another major victory would give the 11-times former champion a record-equalling ninth Leger triumph and his first classic since his dramatic return to the turf 11 months ago.

Piggott's 41 winners this season include two vintage performances at Doncaster Thursday, second day of the Leger meeting.

Most race fans can readily recall his most recent Leger success in 1984 when Commanche Run gave everything up on the least-punishing Doncaster Straight.

Less will remember St. Paddy winning the 1960 event for the late Sir Noel Murless, Piggott's first Leger win.

The burden of re-writing the record books falls on the least-experienced runner in the 10-strong field.

But Micheletti, owned by Charles St. George and trained by Henry Cecil — two of Pig-

gott's oldest friends — is just the sort of improving and late-developing colt to win this 1½ furlongs (2.9 kms) test. Some rain would help his cause.

Unbeaten on a racecourse until July but unbeaten in his three races since, Micheletti, a half brother to 1989 Leger winner Micheletto, has been working particularly well at home.

Piggott deserted Royal Ascot winner Saddlers' Hall to team up with his old friends, the men who provided him with his comeback ride last year.

The two horses preferred ahead of Micheletti are French Raider Toulon (3-1) and Corrupt (4-1).

The pair started 4-1 joint favourites for the Epsom Derby in June but flopped badly behind Generous, who goes for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe early next month.

Both have won since Epsom and look sure to give a much better account of themselves. Toulon, owned by Prince Khalid Abdullah, will have the benefit of champion jockey Pat Eddery on board.

Corrupt is a tough performer on his day but trainer Neville

Callaghan and jockey Frankie Dettori have still to win a classic.

Paul Cole, trainer of Generous and last year's Leger winner, the unattractively named Snurge, relies on 6-1 chance Fly Away Soon.

The Colt is another who has improved all season, but some of his racing has been on the all-weather surface at Lingfield, a more usual venue for the sport's lesser lights.

Best of the outsiders may be Jahafi (14-1), disappointing early in the season but a useful winner at Goodwood last time out when tried over a longer distance.

The Colt's trainer Dick Hern has won the Leger six times and jockey Willie Carson three.

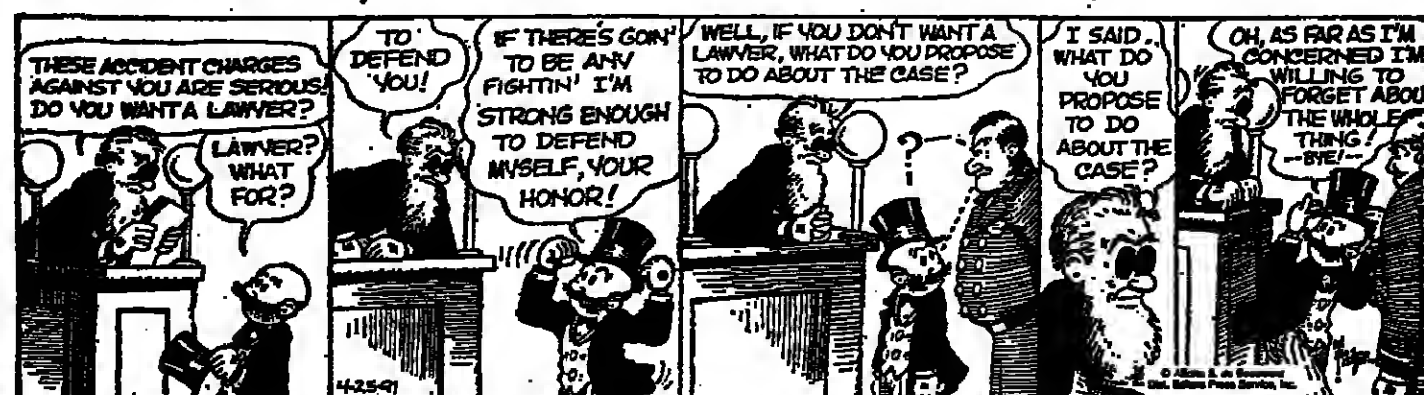
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carol Flighter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be creative and continue to show your devotion and affection for those with whom you have any sort of personal interest. You feel inspired to gain those aspirations which mean most to you now.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your family may seem to be in a bad humor and to putting you two hard towards the ambitions that they want but go along with them and save real antagonism.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) A day to use much care in motion for some accident could occur more readily than usual unless you stop, look and listen where there is possibility of trouble.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You now find that most everyone is too preoccupied with the financial aspects of everyday living and you are no exception so avoid money-mad activities.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Your interest in some new way to get rid of some personal obligation is all right so long as you do take some big chance that could wreck your accuracy.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) A day to make sure you spend your time getting rid of conditions that are not helpful to you in aiding those who are less fortunate than yourself.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) Now you have some interesting things to do by which to gain the good will of some fascinating acquaintance by doing something that she wants to do.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Whatever you have in mind requiring some approval from an official can get you in a lot of trouble if you try to force or be too demanding.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) New scenes and new contracts appeal to you very much but make sure you are not running away from something you are tired of doing for upon your return it must be done.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You now are able to gain the good will of an expert or one to whom you are obligated by showing you attend to your debts with care.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) You can lambast a partner who really does not deserve it because you are dissatisfied with some plan that is not going as you would like.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) You now are able to get much work done that is difficult during the week if you forget outside appeals and get busy and finish your own chores.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) This day you want to have a good time and if you can confine yourself to inexpensive pleasures you can help matters get done to your satisfaction.

Today's advice: If your child were born today she or he is one of those real characters who has it within their power to make others feel happy and delighted. All kinds of social and entertainment events and could make a handsome living in this area if they have any interest in doing so.

"The stars inspire, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

## Energy Stone: Crystal.

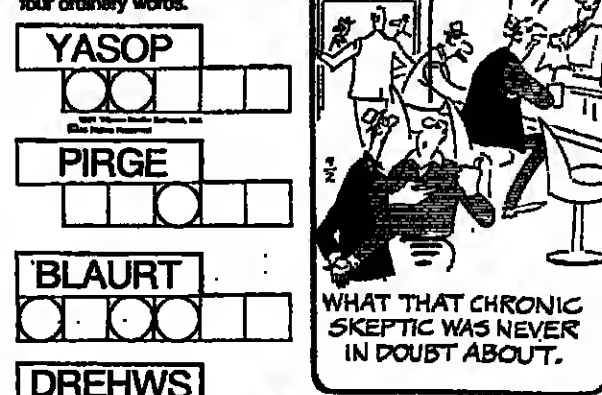
World Resources: Dignity & Co. Inc. Amman: Pro De Jagers Amman: Amma Hotel: 6th floor.

## THE BETTER HALF.



## JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



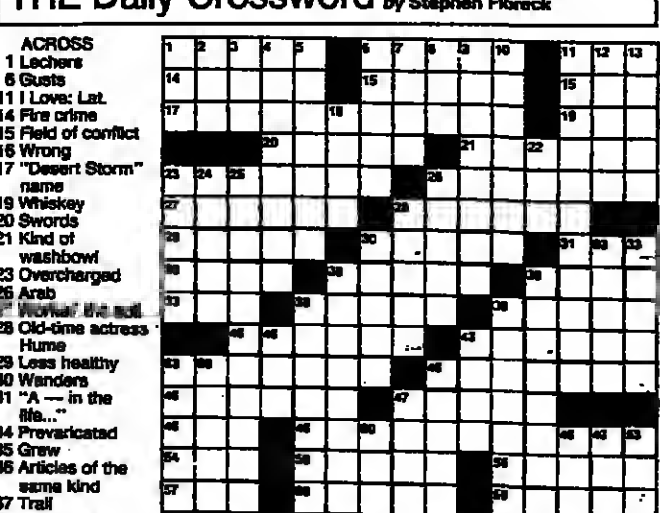
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday's Jumble: BRIAR DOWDY INNATE UPWARD

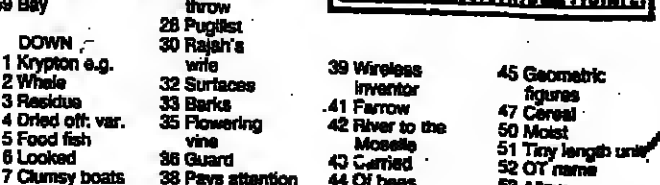
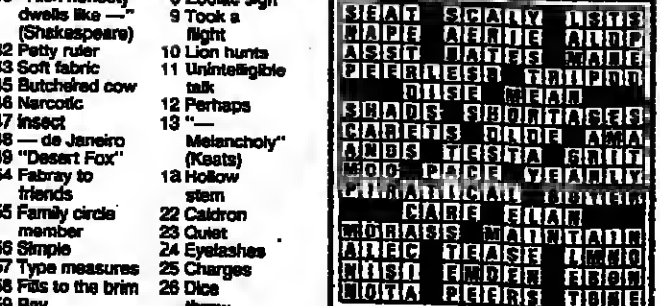
Answer: How to keep all your kitchen utensils sparkling clean—DINE OUT

## THE Daily Crossword by Stephen Flock



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:





## Financial Markets

**U.S. Dollar in International Markets**

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 11/19/91	TOKYO CLOSE 12/19/91
Sterling Pound	1.7340	1.7325
Deutsche Mark	1.6855	1.6873
Swiss Franc	1.4787	1.4798
French Franc	5.7455	5.7443
Japanese Yen	134.72	134.50
European Currency Unit	1.2145	1.2140

**European Currency Unit**

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.50	5.43	5.68	5.81
Sterling Pound	10.57	10.00	9.93	9.93
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.00	9.18	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.00	7.93	7.68
French Franc	9.18	9.31	9.31	9.43
Japanese Yen	7.00	6.62	6.40	6.31
European Currency Unit	9.68	9.72	9.75	9.75

**Precious Metals**

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	344.50	6.70	Silver	3.95	.090

**Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin**

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.687	.689
Sterling Pound	1.1889	1.1948
Deutsche Mark	.4068	.4087
Swiss Franc	.4639	.4668
French Franc	.1197	.1203
Japanese Yen	.5101	.5127
Dutch Guilder	.3607	.3625
Swedish Krona	.1117	.1123
Italian Lira	.0544	.0547
Belgian Franc	.01963	.01973

**Other Currencies**

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7700	1.7750
Lebanese Lira	.0770	.0772
Saudi Riyal	.1629	.1637
Kuwaiti Dinar		
Qatari Riyal	.1860	.1870
Egyptian Pound	.2050	.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7300	1.7450
UAE Dirham	.1860	.1870
Greek Drachma	.3620	.3700
Cypriot Pound	1.4600	1.5000

**Amman Financial Market weekly trading**

Index	10/9/91	Close	11/9/91	Close
All-Share	115.00	115.71	115.71	115.71
Banking Sector	99.26	99.39	99.39	99.39
Insurance Sector	119.11	119.50	119.50	119.50
Industry Sector	137.82	139.49	139.49	139.49
Services Sector	127.67	128.31	128.31	128.31

NOTE: The big jump in the All-Share index, compared to its level of 113.96 and 106.61 respectively on September 9, 1991, is attributed to the rise in the share price of the Arab Potash Co. from JD5.10 to more than JD10.00.

## Former East German economic supremo says communism 'an illusion'

BONN (R) — Guenter Mittag, former communist East Germany's economic chief, says it became clear to him 10 years ago that the Stalinist state was heading for bankruptcy.

But his proposals for reform were ignored and he had been made a scapegoat, he said in an interview with the German weekly Der Spiegel.

Mr. Mittag, 64, widely blamed for ruining East Germany's economy before German unification last year, has been charged with fraud and abuse of public trust. He is awaiting trial but has remained free because of his frail health.

Asked what went wrong in East Germany, once hailed as the Soviet Bloc's showcase economy, he said: "The socialist system itself was false. It is an illusion... it will never be tried again."

Only a market economy, based on incentive and profit, could work, he said.

Mr. Mittag, who was briefly arrested after the fall of the hard-line communist regime in 1989, has been accused of hiding the fact that East Germany was on the verge of bankruptcy for years.

The economic collapse began taking shape in 1981 and became apparent in 1983, he said.

"East Germany industry could never have recovered on its own strength," he said. "I would never have filed for bankruptcy, but as far as I was concerned, the way to go was a step-by-step confederation with West Germany."

One reason for the slump in growth and foreign trade, he said, was a cut in Soviet oil deliveries, "and the whole politburo was informed of this situation."

But no changes in the command economy were tolerated and the socialist course "was kept

down to the last detail, down to the price of flowers."

"All my proposals were rejected," Mr. Mittag said. "I always tried to save money in the state budget, reduce administration, cut defence expenditure... and thus make the means available."

He said his proposals were thrown out by other politburo members, including state and Communist Party boss Erich Honecker and Prime Minister Willi Stoph, whom he described as head of the "blockhead faction."

Mr. Mittag, always considered a close friend of Mr. Honecker, told Der Spiegel they often went bunting together but "We always had serious differences (to our work)."

"At the end of 1987, I came to the conclusion that every chance had been blown. No help was possible from the East and we could not turn to the West for comprehensive economic cooperation because of latest political resistance within our own ranks," he said.

Mr. Stoph and others accused him of not being up to his job and blamed him for the economic debacle, he said.

Mr. Mittag said politburo members with good contacts in Moscow talked behind his back. At one point, then Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev warned Mr. Honecker that his chief economist could be a Western spy.

What if East Germany were still a separate state today, its fortified border and the Berlin wall still in place?

"(That's) beyond description," said Mr. Mittag. "The thought of it sends shivers down my spine. Murder and manslaughter. Misery. Hunger."

## Saudi firm to set up banks in two Soviet republics soon

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — A Saudi business conglomerate plans to set up commercial investment banks in the Soviet republics of Russia and Kazakhstan to finance economic development there, a company spokesman has said.

Executives of Jeddah-based Dallah Al Baraka Group would travel to the Kazakhstan capital Alma Ata in October to open the first bank. Majid Al Refai, the group's senior executive for investment banking, told Reuters in a telephone interview.

Negotiations for the second bank, to be based in Moscow, were well under way and Dallah Al Baraka executives would travel there later in September to finalise the arrangements, he said.

"The plans for the first bank are almost finished. We have an Arab general manager who speaks Russian and its Russian employees are being trained abroad," Mr. Refai said. "Our chairman has talked to (Russian President Boris) Yeltsin about the second bank and we already

bave the licence," he added.

The banks, which will be joint ventures with the governments of the respective republics, are the first business ventures of their kind since the two countries restored ties last September after a 52-year break.

Last month the Saudi government signed a \$1.5 billion loan pledged to Moscow last year as a reward for its support during the Gulf crisis.

Victor Zhilin, the Soviet commercial attache in Riyadh, told Reuters Moscow had already received the first half of the credit — a \$750 million balance of payments loan from the kingdom's Riyadh Bank.

The Riyadh-based Saudi Fund for Development has agreed to provide the remaining \$750 million for unspecified projects over the next three years.

Mr. Refai said the banks set up by his firm would be run on Islamic principles, which means they will avoid interest-related instruments.

The Bank of Kazakhstan, which has a large Muslim popula-

tion, would have an authorised capital of 150 million roubles and would concentrate on trade finance and leasing of imported industrial or agricultural equipment.

Dallah Al Baraka, with a 51 per cent stake, would provide half of the paid-in capital of 75 million roubles.

Mr. Refai gave no further details. But Mr. Zhilin said it was understood the bank might help finance development of Kazakhstan's giant Tengiz oilfield near the Caspian Sea and modernisation of its refinery at Karaganda.

The U.S. oil firm Chevron Corp. is negotiating to develop the oilfield, which with potential reserves of up to 25 billion barrels is one of the largest oil discoveries this decade.

Dallah Al Baraka, headed by Saudi businessman Salih Kamil, is one of Saudi Arabia's biggest private conglomerates with assets of more than \$4 billion. It includes the Al Baraka Islamic Investment Bank.

Mr. Zhilin said Saudi businessmen were showing strong interest

in the emerging republics. A group of private entrepreneurs set up a firm to market Soviet goods in June and signed letters of intent and contracts during a recent visit to Moscow, he said.

Mr. Zhilin gave no details on the type of goods involved but he said Saudi imports from the Soviet Union had nearly doubled to \$48 million in 1990 from \$25 million the previous year.

"Every day I receive six or seven faxes and several people visit me to discuss importing goods or investment," he said.

"The situation is still shaky and turmoil is not encouraging but we are optimistic that as stability grows Saudi businessmen will work more closely with us," he said.

Mr. Zhilin said Riyadh and Moscow were discussing a formal trade agreement that would set the framework for future business cooperation. A delegation from Moscow would visit Riyadh in October to finalise plans for a Soviet trade exhibition scheduled to take place there next year, he said.

## U.S. cuts discount rate to 5%

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) cut its key discount rate Friday to five per cent from 5.5 per cent in its latest effort to ensure an economic recovery after a year of recession.

The central bank's rate cut is effective immediately, and a leading commercial bank quickly took the cue to lower the cost of credit. Morgan Guaranty Trust Co., a big New York bank, cut its prime lending rate to eight per cent from 8.5 per cent.

The discount rate is the amount the central bank charges banks for short-term loans and influences the cost of money throughout the economy. Lower rates tend to spur spending and propel growth — just what the American economy needs as it tries to emerge from the recession that began in July, 1990.

The Fed had cut the discount rate from seven per cent to 5.5 per cent between last December and May.

The discount rate was last changed on April 30, when it was reduced to 5.5 per cent from six per cent because of the weak level of national economic activity.

By cutting the closely watched discount rate, the Fed was signalling it wanted banks to join in by lowering their prime lending rates. The rate for their best business customers has been steady at 8.5 per cent since May.

The Fed cut the discount rate by half a percentage point in an attempt to stimulate the economy after a recession which has lasted more than a year.

The Fed easing move came less than an hour after new economic reports showed relatively moderate inflation and weakness in consumer spending.

## China orders curbs on new construction to tighten credit

BEIJING (R) — China, tightening credit amid crushing domestic debt defaults, has ordered curbs on new building projects, the official China Daily newspaper has said.

The move signalled a firm commitment by Chinese leaders to crack down on debt-ridden state enterprises that are mainly responsible for the building boom. Western diplomats said.

The order came in a circular issued Aug. 29 by the state council, or cabinet, the newspaper said.

"The state council circular forbids all construction projects to proceed except for those in agriculture, water conservancy, energy, communications, education, public health, grain storage, housing and technical upgrading in line with the government industrial policy," it said.

Investment in new construction soared 71.2 per cent in the first seven months of this year compared with 1990, it said.

"A sharp rise in capital construction projects in the first half of this year threatens the state's efforts to control the total fixed assets input and to adjust the country's industrial structure," the newspaper said.

China's economic planners, alarmed by an overheated economy and runaway inflation, tightened credit in an austerity policy in September, 1988.

The credit screws have since been loosened, but Western diplomats said the latest circular was a sign of a new wave of badly needed rationalisation of China's debt-ridden economy.

"This is an early sign that the senior leadership is willing to take reforms seriously and to take a stronger stand on state enterprises," a senior Western diplomat said.

"They are the main offenders

on the construction boom and the debt defaults that are plaguing the government," he said.

The total defaults of businesses, including state ones, stood at a hefty 270 billion yuan (\$50 billion) this year, the China Daily said earlier.

Squeezing new construction was an important step, a Western economist said. "They needed to rein in the construction boom to help curb the debt defaults."

He said many companies in the construction sector, many of them state-owned, were unable to raise sufficient funds either from banks, the government or foreign sources.

"They go ahead with their projects anyway and find themselves unable to pay their debts," he said.

"We're seeing overheating in the construction sector as an early sign of an overheating economy," the economist said.

The government, desperate to prop up inefficient state enterprises, created large amounts of credit for them, including big bond issues in recent weeks.

Premier Li Peng discussed ways to boost state firms' performance at four meetings this week, the official People's Daily newspaper has said.

"We need to further improve the political core function of the party organisations in state enterprises, improve the managerial responsibility system and rely on the working class wholeheartedly," it quoted Mr. Li as saying.

The government's chief

spokesman said recently that China's economic performance improved during the first half of 1991, but severe summer flooding in some of the country's richest provinces will increase the budget deficit this year.

"Our policy of reform and opening up has made further progress, and our entire economic situation is continuing in a favourable direction," Yuan Mu, spokesman for the state council, told a news conference.

"The plan for economic and social development for this year will basically be realised," he said.

Mr. Yuan said China's gross national product (GNP) reached 302.7 billion yuan (\$151.45 billion) between January and June this year, an increase of 6.1 per cent over the same period last year.

He said the GNP growth rate for the entire year was expected to remain stable at around six per cent — the government's targeted increase over last year's five per cent growth rate.

But Mr. Yuan said the economy remains beset by severe problems, including low efficiency in its huge state industrial sector and a widening budget deficit caused by this year's extensive flooding in central China.

The floods caused close to \$10 billion in direct economic losses and have hit grain production in key agricultural provinces.

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders	Swiss francs	Belgian francs	French francs	Italian lire	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns	U.S. dollars
One Sterling	1.7300/10	1.1365/70	1.6900/10	1.9050/60	1.4807/14	34.85/90	5.7500/50	1265/1266	134.05/15	6.1500/50	6.6200/50	6.5275/25	343.80/344.30
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# Serb rebels pour into army barracks; Croatia loses control of Kostajnica

**BELGRADE (R)** — Croatia said Friday that Serbian guerrillas were pouring into Yugoslav army barracks in seaports along the rebel republic's Adriatic coast as part of a continuing increase in military pressure.

Zagreb Radio reported that guerrillas from the Republic of Serbia and its ally Montenegro had infiltrated the region which has been cut off for two days from central Croatia because of fighting.

Guerrilla forces were seen entering barracks of the Serbian-led army at Sibenik, Benkovac and Split, it added.

Ethnic violence in Croatia has intensified in the south of the republic in the past week as part of the guerrilla campaign against independence for Croatia inside its present borders.

Fighting continued also in central and eastern regions of Croatia which suffered a psychological blow Thursday night when it lost control of Kostajnica, southeast of Zagreb.

Almost 400 Croatian police and national guards who surren-

dered after a battle lasting several days were allowed to reach safety in the neighbouring Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Osijek, the main town in eastern Croatia which borders Serbia, was hit by 200 mortar shells in overnight fighting in which seven people were hurt, Reuters correspondent Nikola Antonov reported.

He said houses, a hospital and a school were damaged in the bombardment which halted train services in the town of 150,000.

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic warned he might call for foreign intervention if the federal army continued to aid the Serbs.

Well over 400 people have been killed in fighting since Croatia and Slovenia declared independence on June 25.

"Unless the army withdraws within the period I have given it... I will be obliged to call on the army's security and justice authorities to bring charges against those who do not implement the decision of the presidency," Mr. Milosevic said.

"After this there remains the

possibility for me to request intervention from outside Yugoslavia as well," he told Yugoslav news agency, Tanjug.

Deputy Defence Minister General Marko Negovanovic told a news conference: "Whoever invites foreign forces is a traitor and any army which comes without our permission will be treated as an enemy."

The president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic, expressing fears that ever-widening violence could engulf his central republic, calling for a demilitarized zone on his border with Croatia.

The Serbs and the army have captured more than a third of Croatia since cutting a bridge in Masimica in the south. It was the last link to a 360-kilometre swathe of coastal territory that includes Dubrovnik, Zadar and Split.

As representatives of the feuding republics met in the Hague for peace talks, EC envoy Henric Wijnants completed a shuttle between the battlefields in an effort to stop the bloodshed.



"I don't know what will happen," said Mr. Wijnants, who narrowly escaped being shot down in army helicopter Wednesday.

"It will be a long and arduous task but we have to keep on trying."

## 4 more die on eve of S. African peace convention

**JOHANNESBURG (R)** — Four more blacks, two of them policemen, were killed overnight as South Africa's warring factions put the finishing touches to a peace accord aimed at halting township violence, police said Friday.

The four deaths pushed the toll since Sunday to 121. By Thursday the count was 104, but police said 17 more died in hospital from injuries sustained in the fighting.

Police spokesman Frans Malherbe said four men armed with handguns approached a group of municipal policemen and tried to disarm them. A shooting ensued and two policemen were killed.

Two men armed with AK-47 automatic rifles walked into a restaurant at Vosloorus township east of Johannesburg Thursday night and sprayed patrons with gunfire, killing one woman and a man.

About 1,200 policemen and soldiers sealed off Phola Park squatter settlement east of Johannesburg and searched houses, cars and residents for weapons.

The squatter camp has seen some of the fiercest fighting during the past days.

An accord aimed at ending factional fighting between Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party that has cost 3,000 lives in the past year is to be signed at a multi-party convention Saturday.

The two groups, plus the government and church, business and labour movements, are expected to sign the accord in their most determined effort yet to quell the spear and gun battles.

Vowing his government would "leave no stone unturned" to end the township warfare, reformist president F.W. de Klerk said: "The peace accord to be signed Saturday can make an important contribution, provided that all parties who sign it live to the letter and the spirit of the agreement."

While most black leaders were hopeful the accord might work, Dr. Buthelezi said the pact would not filter down to the grassroots level where the fighting actually takes place.

"I don't see any reason why this accord should work when the accord that we worked out in January with the ANC did not work," he added, referring to a bilateral ANC-Inkatha peace accord on Jan. 29 that fell apart within weeks.

Dr. Buthelezi said Mr. Mandela's movement was being hypocritical in agreeing to sign the accord because, he said, it had spurned recent Inkatha offers of reconciliation talks.

"I'm not signing because I believe it's going to work out, but I want to be part of that if that's part of the peace process," Dr. Buthelezi said.

Anti-apartheid cleric Archbishop Desmond Tutu was hopeful the accord would help ease tension in troubled spots.

"Remember some of the darkest days under apartheid that we have pulled through. This may be the darkest hour that comes before dawn. We must stand up for peace and commit ourselves to the new South Africa," he said.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Top North Korean diplomat defects

**SEOUL (R)** — A North Korean diplomat has defected to South Korea, the highest-ranking Pyongyang official to do so, government officials in Seoul said on Friday. They identified the defector as Ko Young-Hwan, 38, who worked in North Korea's Foreign Ministry and had served as a diplomat in Africa since 1979.

"Working as the first secretary at the North Korean embassy in Congo. He sought asylum to our government in May," a statement released by the Korea Overseas Information Service said. Mr. Ko is the most senior official to defect to the South since the Korean peninsula was divided in 1945. South Korea had maintained silence on the defection at Mr. Ko's request. He feared for his family in Pyongyang and in Congo, the statement said. Mr. Ko left his wife and a six-year-old daughter in Congo, Mr. Ko's mother and his other daughter, aged nine, live in Pyongyang. Mr. Ko's father, a former senior official, died in 1979.

### China expels British reporter

**PEKING (R)** — China has ordered the Peking correspondent for the British newspaper the Independent to leave the country by Sunday. The reporter, Andrew Higgins, said Friday. "I was told by the Police Foreign Affairs Office that they had received orders from a higher responsible organ to inform me that I must leave China by Sept. 15," Mr. Higgins said by telephone. This is the first expulsion of a resident correspondent from China since 1989, when two American journalists were expelled for their reporting of the crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations in Peking in June that year. Mr. Higgins said the police official did not give a reason. He had been summoned to the Foreign Ministry Thursday, where an official took his press pass from him in the parking lot. That official also did not give a reason. But Mr. Higgins said that in June, while on a reporting trip to east China's Shandong province, he was searched and found in possession of a secret Communist Party document detailing arrests in restive Inner Mongolia.

### Fierce fighting reported in Sri Lanka

**COLOMBO (AP)** — Tamil rebels killed six government soldiers and wounded 18 others in fierce fighting that has raged in dense northeastern jungles for two weeks, military officials said Friday. The army also killed a large but unspecified number of guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said the officials at the joint operations command in Colombo.

## Commonwealth ministers meet to review Pretoria sanctions

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — Foreign ministers of nine Commonwealth nations opened a two-day meeting Friday to review the gradual dismantling of apartheid in South Africa and define how that should affect international sanctions.

Canadian External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall, who led the meeting of former British colonies, urged an approach "that will give credit where it is due and sustain the pressure for further change."

The Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa is to draw up recommendations for a Commonwealth summit meeting next month in Zimbabwe that may consider a further relaxation of sanctions.

Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao praised Pretoria's steps toward ending its official system of racial discrimination, but said "much remains to be done... there can be no room for sitting back."

He singled out the lack of agreement on a new constitution and the continuing violence among blacks.

At least 40 people have been killed this week in the latest rounds of fighting between supporters of the African National Congress and the Zulu-based Inkatha Movement. The battle has killed about 6,000 people in recent years.

Commonwealth Secretary General Emeke Anyaoku of Nigeria warned that the unrest sweeping through the townships could still derail multiracial democracy.

"It is the worst violence in the history of South Africa, and it allowed to continue for much longer would sow a legacy of bitterness... difficult to eradicate," Mr. Anyaoku said.

A peace agreement was to be signed Saturday, but reports from Johannesburg said some smaller black groups won't join in the pact, and others said they had little faith in it.

The Commonwealth meeting comes a week after South African President F.W. de Klerk proposed a new constitutional model that would extend the vote to the 30 million blacks of South Africa, while retaining effective veto rights for the 5 million whites.

The African National Congress, led by Nelson Mandela, has rejected the plan.

Speakers at the opening session made no reference to Mr. De Klerk's plan, and officials said it would not be the focus of the meeting.

Some countries, like the United States, and some international sports bodies already have lifted economic and other sanctions against South Africa.

But the Commonwealth countries voted last February to peg their sanctions to actual moves adopted by the South African government rather than to its statements of intent.

Mr. McDougall said the committee must now "define our conditions for further movement more clearly." It also must look at a post-apartheid South Africa and see "how the Commonwealth can help it emerge."

The committee is to study a report on training programmes in areas like public administration, economic and fiscal management, legal and security services and diplomacy.

The members of the committee are Canada, Australia, Guyana, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

## COLUMN

### Former partisan confesses to 45-year-old killing

**ROME (AP)** — A former Communist partisan has confessed to killing a Roman Catholic priest 45 years ago — a killing for which another partisan fighter served a 10-year prison term. Prosecutor Elio Bevilacqua of Reggio Emilia, near Bologna, said 71-year-old William Gatti has confessed to the murder of the Rev. Umberto Pessina on June 18, 1946. The prosecutor said Gatti "confessed everything" and that there was no need to hold him pending a trial.

### Pedophiles assist in tracking down child strangler

**HOORN, Netherlands (AP)** — Police have asked a pedophilia advocacy group to help them track down a killer who strangled a young girl to death in the Netherlands' most shocking crime of the summer. Hitchhikers found 11-year-old Jessica Lavett's body along a highway 350 kilometers away from her home in July. She was last seen alive four days before at a public swimming pool in this seaside town north of Amsterdam with a man who eyewitnesses said appeared to be in his early fifties, according to police spokesman Hans Weeda. Mr. Weeda said detectives have not established whether Jessica had been sexually molested during the ordeal. But he said the pedophilia groups may help solve the murder because they can offer "a bit of expertise that we don't have about something that exists in this world." "We don't find this unusual at all. In a criminal investigation you have to get as broad a range of information as possible," Mr. Weeda said.

### Number of Japanese centenarians reaches new high

**TOKYO (R)** — Japan will have a record number of 100-year-olds by the end of this month, the Health and Welfare Ministry said Tuesday. It estimated there would be 3,625 people aged 100 or above by the end of September, an increase of 377 over last year. "The number of elderly people has been increasing every year," a ministry report said. Figures show the trend started in 1970. According to the annual listing of elderly Japanese issued ahead of respect for the aged day Sunday, about 80 per cent of Japanese centenarians are women. Japan's oldest resident for the second consecutive year is Waka Shirohama, a 113-year-old lady living in Miyazaki prefecture, on the southern island of Kyushu. The oldest man is Ghei Oka, 108, of Tochigi prefecture, near Tokyo. He is the only male over 107.

### Cobra guards gems at exhibition

**COLOMBO (R)** — A poisonous cobra is guarding the world's largest sapphire from theft at a jewellery exhibition in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo. "We thought this would be a better security system than anything else," a spokesman for the Sri Lanka Gem Corporation said Monday. The snake, in a glass cage, is protecting two gems worth 45 million rupees (\$1.1 million) at an international gem and jewellery exhibition. The stones, which belong to the corporation and are not for sale, are a 393 carat star sapphire — the world's largest — and a 103 carat star sapphire, the spokesman said. The cobra has been used once before at a similar exhibition in Sweden.

### Bed owned by Jagger, Wyman fetches \$24,700

**LONDON (AP)** — A 16th-century, carved oak four-poster bed once owned by Mick Jagger and then by Bill Wyman of the Rolling Stones fetched \$24,700 (\$24,700) at auction. "I'm just going to enjoy owning it and sleeping on it," said the buyer, Ray Gaffney of London. Jagger bought the bed in the late 1960s and used it in his country home, Stargrove in Berkshire, where he lived for a time with singer Marianne Faithfull. Wyman, the Stones' bass player, bought the bed from Jagger in the late 1970s, according to Sotheby's auctioneers. Along with the bed, Sotheby's said Gaffney would get a photograph of Wyman sitting on it.

## Russians fear persecution in Estonia

**TALLINN, Estonia (AP)** — Ethnic Russians in this Baltic state fear they could become second-class citizens after decades of enjoying job preference and a minority tongue that was the official language.

"Now the Russians are afraid that the Estonians will do to them what Moscow did to Estonia 40 years ago," says Yevgeny Kalinin, an ethnic Russian economist who nevertheless supports Estonian independence.

"They are afraid of becoming second-class citizens, losing their privileges, like being able to speak Russian everywhere," Estonia's Supreme Council has begun work on choosing an assembly to write a new constitution.

One of the lawmakers' tasks is to establish the rights of ethnic Russians, many of whom are wary about independence moves.

"I would not say there is discrimination against the Russians, but there certainly are people who would not mind it," said Mr. Kalinin.

He said the republic's Russian population, representing more than a quarter of Estonia's 1.5 million people, was divided over independence.

In a November poll by the Estonian Academy of Sciences, 30 per cent of ethnic Russians said they supported a free Estonia and 30 per cent said they wished to preserve the Soviet Union.

"About 40 per cent waited to see where the wind was blowing, and today probably would support independence," Mr. Kalinin said, adding that a small percentage are sure to leave.

Much of the distrust stems from the Russian effort begun by the Soviet government after it forcibly incorporated Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 1940. Under the effort, many Russians were sent to Estonia in the 1950s.

Now, Mr. Kalinin said, he expects unemployment to hit ethnic Russians particularly hard when the government begins closing money-losing enterprises.

Vladimir Berglezov, acting director of the huge Dvigatel machine-building factory, said his more than 4,000 Russian-speaking workers are worried.

"People are scared they will start losing their rights, especially after Estonia was declared the official language," he said. In March 1990, Estonia passed a law requiring all top officials to learn Estonian within two years.

A case in point is the plant foreman.

Pavel Gorasenko, 34, who was born in Estonia of Russian parentage. He said his Estonian is only rudimentary.

Language courses at the plant were suspended for lack of money, and because the factory is awaiting the outcome of talks on its future.

Estonia claims ownership, but the Soviet Ministry of Atomic Energy and Industry still controls the plant's equipment.

Dvigatel makes textile-colouring machines, pasteurising equipment and parts for nuclear-powered heating plants. It produced orders for the Soviet military until two years ago.

Many of the plant's officials were Communist Party members before last month's failed Moscow coup. The plant manager, Vladimir Yarovoy, was fired for allegedly supporting the coup.

## Pro-bases Manila senators reject face-saving formula for Washington

**MANILA (R)** — A group of Philippine senators fighting a rearguard action to keep U.S. forces in the country rejected Friday a face-saving formula allowing the United States military a rent-free, three-year withdrawal period.

Anti-bases senators who have refused to ratify a new treaty with Washington allowing U.S. use of Subic Bay Naval Base for 10 more years had suggested the three-year formula to allow American forces a graceful exit from the former U.S. colony.

But at a meeting with President Corason Aquino Friday to discuss action following the almost certain rejection of the treaty by the 23-member senate, pro-bases senators said they still supported the pact and rejected the three-year phaseout.

"After mature and intense deliberation. We decided to turn it down," said Nephtali Gonzales, leader of the pro-bases senators who met with Mr. Aquino.

"We are accepting the reality that treaty ratification as well as a referendum are no longer viable, we are still considering several options," he told reporters without elaborating.

"We feel that a treaty of withdrawal will only confuse the issue," Senator John Osmena said.

Mrs. Aquino would announce a plan of action that would be "democratic and constitutional," he said but gave no details.

Since anti-bases senators secured a majority in the Senate this week for rejection of the treaty, Mrs. Aquino has been hunting for a way to overturn the vote and allow American forces to remain.

But Gen. Gonzalez said a rejection of the treaty in Monday's vote was now virtually inevitable.

"If we cannot reverse the situation. At least (we can) soften the impact on the relationship between our two countries," he said.

Mrs. Aquino says the Philippines needs the money and cannot afford to evict the 8,000 American servicemen at a time when the economy is reeling from the impact of a series of natural disasters, including the June eruption of Mount Pinatubo volcano.

Under the treaty, the United States would pay \$203 million a year for Subic, while giving up Clark Air Base which was severely damaged by Pinatubo.

But Manila says the treaty is worth \$800 million a year in trade concessions, financial and military assistance. The United States has also agreed to help with \$5.3 billion restructuring of Philippine commercial debt.

The anti-bases senators say the country will never be truly free until American forces leave.

Among proposals being studied by the government are a "people's initiative" act which would require the signatures of 10 per cent of the Philippine voters to revive the treaty.

While a U.S. withdrawal is expected to badly hit the already stagnating Philippine economy, one immediate benefit was an announcement by Communist rebels, who have been fighting the government for 22 years, that they would implement an immediate ceasefire.

They announced the unilateral ceasefire to celebrate the imminent senate rejection of the treaty.

Meanwhile, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said Friday it foresees no increase in the size of American forces in Japan, whatever the outcome of a debate in the Philippines to close major bases there.

"In general, the U.S. government is trying to reduce the quantity of its forces in Asia. There will be no increase in U.S. forces in Japan, whatever happens in adjacent areas," ministry spokesman said.

The United States maintains major bases in Japan, especially on the southern island of Okinawa, and guarantees Japan's external security.

U.S. officials are studying the possibility of transferring some military activities in the Philippines to other parts of Asia.

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## Flood-related accidents take death toll beyond 200 in Bangladesh

**DHAKA (AP)** Flood-related accidents and drownings killed at least 100 people Thursday, raising the death toll from two weeks of flooding to more than 210, news reports said.

In the northern district of Rangpur, at least 60 people were killed in two accidents, the Sangbad newspaper reported Friday.

A bus with 30 passengers ran off an inundated road and was swamped by river waters, the newspaper said.

There were no reports of survivors.

In another part of the district, a boat capsized in a flooded river and at least 30 people drowned, the newspaper said.

At least 40 people died in drownings, house collapses and snake bites in other areas of northern Bangladesh, newspapers said. Fatal snake bites are more common during floods as humans and reptiles seek dry land.

The government has said at least 1 million people are homeless, stranded or have lost their crops. It has said all major rivers in northern Bangladesh are in spate.

The government's Flood Information Centre in Dhaka has said water 2.4 metres deep covers parts of Dinajpur, a town of 100,000 people about 275 kilometres northeast of Dhaka.

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## Pacific dilemma — develop while keeping lifestyle

**KOLONIA, Federated States of Micronesia (AP)** — Island nations across the Pacific face environmental threats from outside and social problems at home as they try to meet the future without losing their identity.

To the eye, not much has changed in recent decades. Tourists come to escape the rat race. The diving, swimming and sailing are as good as ever in still-pristine waters. The landscape is lush, the pace slow.

But island leaders, working to overcome the traditional "no worry" attitude, tell people their comfortable way of life may be gone tomorrow unless they act today.

Animosity toward the outside is growing because of problems the islands had little or no part in creating: Nuclear testing, chemical weapons, the greenhouse effect and toxic-waste dumping.

Health problems like diabetes abound. Educational efforts are under way to prevent an outbreak of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases among people who generally take an open view toward casual sex.

Years of "benign neglect" by former colonial powers left infrastructure problems ranging from teacher shortages and poor communications to inadequate airstrips and unpaved roads —

and a reliance on foreign aid and imports.

The worldwide recession has hit hard. Tourists put off expensive trips far from home. Governments face tight budgets in their aid programmes. Private investment dries up.

Officials worry about how to improve productivity without quickening the easy pace that attracts vacationers.

Andon Amarich, a former foreign secretary of the Federated States of Micronesia, said of the general attitude toward work: "Put it this way: Nobody's starving. So why should we work hard? The clan and traditional system here help those who don't have enough. Through the extended family, they get what they need."

Only 20 per cent of the 100,000 people in the Federated States are formally employed. The rest survive on subsistence farming and fishing or rely on their families.

Aware that their remoteness and small size work against them, Pacific nations band together to make their collective voice heard on major issues.

The 15-nation South Pacific Forum, formed in 1971, has become the primary platform, although many members also have joined the 34-country asso-

ciation of small island states.

A successful tactic of the forum has been to abandon the non-confrontational attitude prevalent in the islands and concentrate on one issue at a time.

Two years ago it was foreign factory ships fishing with drift nets, called "walls of death," that trap anything and threatened to wipe out entire species. An international convention has banned the practice, although a few ships continue it.

Concern about the incineration of chemical weapons at a high-tech U.S. facility on Johnston Atoll dominated the forum's 1990 meeting. Island leaders said they had not been consulted and criticised Washington for shipping weapons there from Germany.

U.S. President Bush met with 11 island leaders in Hawaii to tell them the plant was safe and would close when stocks already there were destroyed, along with any mustard gas shells from World War II found in the Pacific in the meantime.

This year, the forum's agenda focused on the greenhouse effect, probably the region's greatest long-term threat. Members urged emissions and pursue alternative energy technologies.

Many scientists predict higher temperatures caused by industrial

emissions into the atmosphere, particularly carbon dioxide, will melt the polar icecaps and raise ocean levels.

That would mean extinction for low-lying Pacific islands like Tuvalu, Kiribati and some of the Marshalls. Even if they weren't completely swamped, rising levels of ocean saltwater would pollute fresh ground water, leaving residents with nothing to drink.

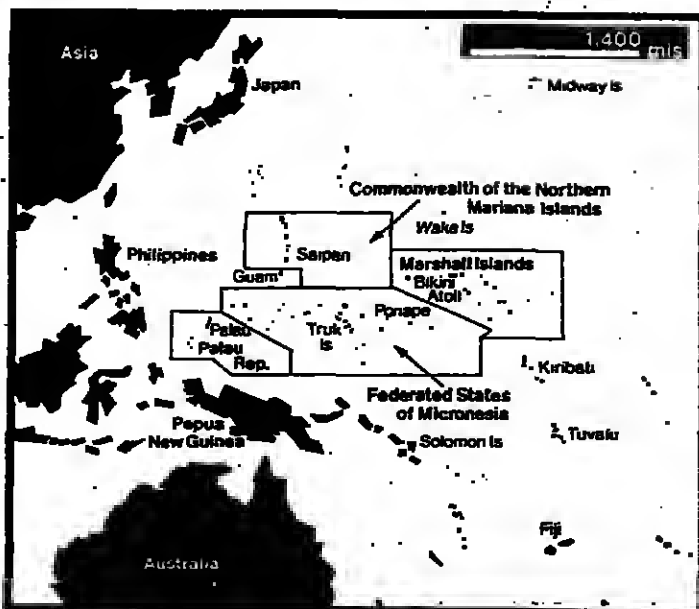
The greenhouse effect is far from the only threat to the generally pristine environment.

France claims nuclear testing in French Polynesia poses no danger, but fears were heightened in August by a report from International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. It said radiation from atmosphere tests in the Pacific and elsewhere could kill millions of people in coming centuries.

Some islands also are taking steps to make sure Western nations, plagued by toxic-waste problems, do not look to the Pacific as a dumping ground.

In addition to the common problems, many islands have troubles at home.

Crime is so bad in Papua New Guinea that urban areas are under curfew and the prime minister has suggested tattooing the foreheads of convicted criminals.



A 2-year-old secessionist rebellion on Bougainville Island has created political turmoil and hurt the country financially.

Fiji's year-old, racially weighted constitution has been criticised internationally. Union strife has threatened the sugar harvest for two years and created a protracted gold-mine strike.

Public employees have been striking in the Solomon Islands, and in Vanuatu. Prime Minister Walter Lini was replaced.

Australia and New Zealand,

the regional powers, have severe economic problems.

Also, New Zealand's refusal to admit U.S. warships because they would not confirm or deny carrying nuclear weapons made it a leader in the anti-nuclear movement, but led to isolation from the United States. The government is reviewing the position.

Even Nauru, with one of the world's highest per-capita incomes from rich phosphate deposits, faces an uncertain future when its only export runs out.